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POLITICAL PARTIES AND REFORM.

THE Parliamentary Reform question is getting into a precious muddle—in the House of Commons, we mean. Honourable members on both sides of the House are proving false to all their previous professions; parties are hopelessly disorganised—the Liberal party especially so; private motives, not public policy, influence votes; and the whole affair is getting more farcical than ever: is fast degenerating, in truth, into the position of being merely a theme to talk about and—an object to laugh at. That is the pass to which insincerity and the corrupt moral atmosphere of Parliament are bringing a great public question. It is, indeed, a sorry spectacle that the "Improvement of the Representation of the People" farce exhibits at Westminster; and one, truly, which, while it may make the unthinking laugh, cannot fail to cause the judicious to grieve.

In the first place, there is the great Conservative party—great in their own estimation and within the walls of Parliament, whatever opinion of them may be entertained by the bulk of the people—helplessly obeying the dictation of Mr. Disraeli—being "gradually dragged, invited, allured, coaxed, wheedled, cajoled, coerced," as Mr. Bright happily phrased it, into passing a measure which in their hearts they detest and deem utterly uncalled for, which they have all along opposed, and which they only now support for the sake of party triumph, and not from sincere conviction that it is either wise, necessary, or judicious. But, such being their feelings, they are at least consistent in two things: obedient to the mandates of the whipper-in of their party—as obedient as the dogs in their kennels to a similar functionary—they vote as they are ordered, and they strive to make their concession to popular demands as small, as hampered, and

as delusive as possible. A reform bill may be—it must be—intensely distasteful to the Conservative palate; but, as the pill must be swallowed, they do well, and are so far consistent with themselves, in sugaring it thickly over with restrictions and impediments to its free action. Their

it is a wonderful thing to see Conservatives belying their name and their traditions and promoting what at least *seems* to be a democratic measure.

But while we can understand Tories being false to their principles in order that they may serve their party, we

cannot imagine any good reason for Reformers deserting their principles and their party in order to serve the purposes of their opponents. We say we cannot imagine any good reason for this, though we daresay there are reasons sufficient to satisfy the minds of visionary, weak, and—interested men. Blind attachment to abstract theories may lead some honourable members to adopt the Government bill with all its faults of detail; a vague hope of amending these faults hereafter may delude others; but we suspect that the terrors of a dissolution weigh with most. We know with what difficulty and trouble—through what pains of travail in person and purse—many members have obtained their seats, how slender is the hold they have of them, and how dreadful to them, therefore, must be the prospect of a return to their constituents. But in this case, as in all others, fear is but a purblind counsellor. The evil day is but staved off for a season by this halting between two opinions; this policy of accepting a measure Liberals cannot really approve, and which, they must know, will not settle the question of Reform, will recoil upon them hereafter. Come it slow or come it fast, an appeal to the



"THE ROSY IDOL OF HER SOLITUDE."—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY G. E. HICKS, IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY'S EXHIBITION.)

object is to admit as few persons to the franchise as possible; and they are likely to accomplish their purpose, and that, too, under the guise of freely offering votes to all. Verily, Mr. Disraeli and his followers are wise in their day and generation, and are making the best of a disagreeable position. We blame them not, and we quarrel not with their tactics, albeit

people must come ultimately; and then, what fate will await the trimmers and backsliders? The duty of professed Reformers was to secure a measure that would admit the largest possible number of suitable persons to the franchise, and to obtain that result in the simplest possible way. And that, whether the mode proposed was strictly consistent with

abstract theories or not. But this is precisely what a section of the so-called Liberal party are not doing. They seem bent on passing a bill which is so framed as to admit the fewest number possible to the right of voting, and to admit them in the most complicated and difficult manner.

Will such a measure satisfy the public mind, settle the Reform question, or allay agitation? We believe not. It will only to some extent change the venue. The contest will be renewed in each vestry and in each parish; and the fight will take place, if not over a bill in Parliament, over the Small Tenements Act and local rating Acts. But Parliament will not escape the turmoil; the noise of local conflicts will re-echo in the halls of Westminster, and honourable gentlemen will not secure the quiet for the sake of which they appear content to sacrifice so much. Some members seem to fancy that any Reform bill, no matter what its character, will dispose of the question. There never was a greater mistake, as is already indicated by the entrance of Mr. George Wilson and the heroes of the anti-corn-law agitation on the scene of action. Parliament cannot get rid of Reform as the Hibernian did of his debt—give a bill for it, and then thank God that matter is settled. It must be a real settlement, and not a sham one, that will dispose of this reform trouble. And no settlement can be real that keeps suitable persons off the register; that places unnecessary difficulties in the way of getting upon it; that creates invidious distinctions between citizens; or that disfranchises men already in possession of the suffrage. All this the Government bill does. It is, moreover, full of anomalies, contradictions, and inconsistencies. It insists upon personal rating in the case of householders in boroughs, while it abandons this so-called vital principle as regards lodgers. It repudiates a "hard and fast" rental line in towns, and adopts such a line in the country. It declares against a money-value test for householding voters, and imposes precisely such a test upon lodgers, savings-bank depositors, holders of public funds, and county voters. It saddles one class of citizens with onerous conditions, and it admits another class to the register without any conditions at all. It opens the way to all sorts of corrupt practices, and yet it denounces corruption. Can such a measure as this be a settlement of the Reform question? Is it not, on the contrary, certain to inaugurate a new and more vigorous agitation? And what, therefore, can be the good of passing it in its present shape?

The compound householders—or, speaking more correctly, householders whose rates have been compounded for—whatever their own merits or demerits, are clearly being made the victims of circumstances. They are no parties to the compounding process, which is carried out without consulting them, and without any view to their convenience or advantage. It is an arrangement effected between the landlord and the parish, solely for the benefit of the latter. The landlord may reap—we believe he does—advantages by the system; but even that was not the primary object of compounding, which was simply to secure parochial rates from small holdings, and to save trouble to the collector, and, of course, expense to the parish. The compounder, if he pays his rent, pays also his full rates—that is admitted—and, it may be, something more—certainly nothing less; he, therefore, "bears the burdens of citizenship," he performs "public duty," so far, at least, as paying local taxes is concerned—and Mr. Disraeli proposes no further test—as truly as does his non-compounding neighbour; and why he should be put to extra trouble in order to obtain a vote in consequence of an arrangement with which he has nothing to do and from which he derives no benefit, it is difficult to conceive, except upon the hypothesis that the design of the Government bill is to keep as many persons off the register as possible. The non-compounding householder—that is, the person who pays his rates directly to the parish collector—is put upon the rate book and thence upon the register of voters as a matter of course, and without any further trouble to himself. Why should the compounder, who pays the same amount of rates, though through a different channel—that is, the hands of his landlord—not be treated in precisely the same way? It is alleged that the impediments in the way of the compounder are so slight and so easily overcome that they cannot be an obstacle to anyone getting upon the register who is really desirous of obtaining a vote. But to say this is to pronounce their strongest condemnation; for if they are so insignificant, why insist on their retention? But smooth the way for the compounder as much as you please, so long as he is treated differently from the non-compounder, so long as he is subjected to the necessity of making a claim, and supporting it, you place him at a disadvantage, you create distinctions between citizens, and you lay the foundation for local squabbles and continued agitation. But, looking at the matter from another point of view, supposing all compounders were to avail themselves of the facilities offered for obtaining votes, they would thereby cease to be compounders, and the Small Tenements Act and all local rating Acts would be virtually repealed. Would it not, therefore, be wiser, as well as more just, to take a bold course, and either abolish compounding altogether, or make it universal? By either course all parties would be placed upon an equal footing, and a settlement of the Reform question thus achieved would have in it an element of permanency which the Government scheme does not possess. We may safely conclude, however, that Mr. Disraeli neither expects nor wishes the contingency we have suggested to arise; and as wise boldness and even-handed justice do not seem to find favour in the House of Commons, we shall

probably have the Ministerial bill passed with all its worst imperfections on its head; and the Reform question, left in a muddled and unsatisfactory state, no nearer a settlement than before.

"THE ROSY IDOL OF HER SOLITUDE."

MR. G. E. HICKS will increase his rising reputation by this pleasant and unaffected work. The story of Enoch Arden is too well known to need recapitulation here. The passage Mr. Hicks has selected from the Laureate's most popular poem describes how Enoch's wife is cheered during his long absence by the presence of the merry urchin, at once her care and comfort. She has perched the young rogue on her shoulder, and looks up with tender worship to her rosy idol. The cottage is a simple dwelling enough, neat and bright as the presence of such a woman would make it. Just as it looks in this picture it must have risen before the eyes of Enoch in that far fair tropical island, all of whose beauties he would so gladly have exchanged for that humble home in dear old England.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

At the sitting of the French Legislative Body on Monday the Marquis de Montier announced the conclusion of the treaty on the Luxembourg question, communicated the principal provisions of the document, and expressed the satisfaction of the French Government at the result. The only thing wanting after the settlement of the Luxembourg question to allay all apprehensions of a European war was that France and Prussia should discontinue their warlike preparations. The first step in this direction has been taken by France, the Emperor having decided that all non-commissioned officers and soldiers belonging to the contingent called out in 1860, and those men who enlisted voluntarily, and whose time of service would expire on Dec. 31 of this year, shall be immediately allowed to return to their homes. The Prussian Government has also stopped the works for strengthening the fortress of Luxembourg and dismissed the workmen. The official evening *Moniteur* of Monday has a paragraph of congratulation on the result of the London Conference. The result, we are told, has strengthened the English Ministry, while all acknowledge the dignity and ability of Lord Stanley. The alliance between France and England is by this Conference made closer, says the official journal in effect. No one will grudge Lord Stanley the praises thus bestowed upon him. All accounts of the proceedings at the Conference tend to show that the eulogies in the *Moniteur* of his Lordship were amply justified.

Paris is likely to be quite flooded with Royalty this year. The Prince of Wales has been there, the King and Queen of the Belgians are in the city now, and the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia are on their way. It is now said that the King of Prussia and the Emperor of Russia will visit Paris at the end of the month.

ITALY.

Signor Ferrara made his financial statement in the Chamber of Deputies on the 9th inst. He announced that the deficit at the financial period beginning in January, 1869, would be 580,000,000 lire. He proposed that the 600,000,000 lire which are to be derived from the ecclesiastical property should be obtained in the form of an extraordinary tax imposed thereon. A portion of this tax would be levied immediately by appropriating for the use of the State the rentes which are deposited with the Government in the Department of Public Worship. A further instalment of 430,000,000 lire will become payable in four years. The proceeds from certain ecclesiastical property already in the possession of the Government will be exclusively employed for the payment of religious pensions and expenditure for public worship. The 600,000,000 lire which are to be levied from the ecclesiastical property will not be diminished by the costs of any financial operation, with the exception of a commission of 3 per cent, which will be payable upon 430,000,000 lire. From the total amount there will be paid off 250,000,000 lire for the reimbursement of the liabilities of the State to the National Bank. The result of this reimbursement will be that the forced currency of the bank-notes will promptly cease. This announcement was received with great cheers from the House and the galleries, after which the Minister proceeded with the details of the financial statement.

On Wednesday Signor Ferrara brought in the Ecclesiastical Property Bill. He stated that 600,000,000 lire will be levied for the use of the State on the ecclesiastical property. This amount will be made up partly by the public rentes inscribed in the Great Book and appropriated to the Department of Public Worship, and 12,000,000 lire from the ecclesiastical establishments. The remainder will be obtained by an extraordinary tax on the ecclesiastical property in the proportion of 25 per cent of the capital. The payment of the extraordinary tax will be effected in eight half-yearly instalments, the first commencing Jan. 1, 1867. The amount remaining, after deduction of the extraordinary tax, will be applied to ecclesiastical pensions, and to defray the expenses of public worship. The financial operations sanctioned by this law will be contracted to a commercial company, which will receive a maximum commission of 3 per cent.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor and Empress have again gone to Buda-Pesth, and have met with a most enthusiastic reception. On this occasion, favoured by the season, the houses were decorated with green wreaths and garlands, and the streets from the railway terminus at Pesth to the palace at Buda were strewn with flowers. Great preparations are being made for the coronation of the Emperor as King of Hungary. The horse which his Majesty is to bestride on the eventful day has been most carefully drilled to stand still amidst storms of cheers and music and the firing of cannon. It is now stated that Baron von Beust has prepared the speech which Francis Joseph is to deliver. According to the telegram the speech is characterised by both forbearance and frankness, and, while promising liberal measures, dwells upon the services rendered by the Hungarian Diet in bringing about a reconciliation between Austria and Hungary.

The Croatian Diet has postponed the discussion of the Address to the Throne. The Diet has resolved to abstain from passing all resolutions or bills until the resolution of the Diet, that no member shall be liable to be prosecuted for his speeches or to be arrested, shall have received the sanction of the Emperor. M. Zsiokasark, a member of the party hostile to the union between Croatia and Hungary, delivered a speech strongly advocating national union between Servia and Croatia.

THE CANDIAN INSURRECTION.

Intelligence from Greek sources asserts that Omar Pacha attacked Spakia on the 4th inst., but was repulsed, and that he renewed his attack on the following day, when he was again defeated, with great loss. On the other hand, advices have been received by the Turkish Government of an engagement between the Turkish forces and the insurgents in Candia, in which the latter were defeated with a loss of 320 killed.

THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Jefferson Davis has at last been released from prison by the Court of Richmond. He is under bail to appear in November next. Mr. Davis has gone to New York.

The Supreme Court has dismissed the appeals of Georgia and Mississippi against the Reconstruction Act.

The Democratic candidates for the mayoralty and the city judgeship at Baltimore have been elected by large majorities.

The garrison of Lynchburg, Virginia, has been increased, in consequence of reported evidences of disloyalty among the population.

Outrages by negroes in North Carolina are reported as becoming frequent.

MEXICO.

Most important Mexican news is published in the New York papers of May 2. It is to the effect that a messenger from Juarez has arrived at New Orleans bringing news that Miramon was dead, the Imperial forces disbanded, Marquez defeated, Queretaro captured, and Maximilian in concealment. These reports are probably incorrect or exaggerated.

HAYTI.

It is reported, via New York, that the revolution at Hayti had been renewed, and that anarchy prevailed. Several aspirants to the presidency were effecting a military organisation of their adherents.

THE NATIONAL REFORM UNION.

GREAT MEETING IN ST. JAMES'S HALL.

(From the "Daily Telegraph".)

THE summons of the National Reform Union to the people of the metropolis was answered on Wednesday night by a meeting at St. James's Hall, which tested the capabilities of that area to the uttermost. For awhile before the proceedings commenced political enthusiasm was sorely tried by physical pressure and discomfort, at least in the galleries, and there was some noise and confusion arising from this cause; but it did not amount at any time to anything like disorder. The patience that was on the whole displayed by an audience which, eager to obtain places, had anticipated the time of meeting by nearly an hour, seemed to be rewarded when the picked orators of the evening and their immediate supporters passed along the edge of the overflowing platform. Mr. Bright came first; after the chairman (Mr. Morley), succeeded by Mr. Beales, and hard upon him followed Mr. Stuart Mill; each of them receiving a loud and simultaneous shout of welcome. The earnestness of some of the more distant spectators to obtain better views of those whom they desired to honour caused a little confusion, which soon subsided, and Mr. Morley opened the proceedings in an address which was characterised by remarkably plain speaking, the policy and acts of party strategy of the Government being designated by the most appropriate words that would occur to a man in ordinary conversation; while the simplicity of manner which was adopted did not by any means diminish the point of many a caustic observation. Allusions to recreant Liberals, and to the "noble leader" of the people's party, were caught up so rapidly by the assembly that there was no need to utter names; and, on the whole, the introductory address was skilfully adapted to the occasion.

Expectation seemed wrought up in regard to the gentleman on whom the choice of opening the business proper of the evening had devolved, and it is just possible that there might have been a touch of disappointment when Mr. Vernon Harcourt was announced to move the first resolution. If so, it could scarcely have been more than momentary; and long before he had ended the reaction in his favour was complete. He modestly announced himself to be only a skirmisher, but presently he showed that he was worthy to be placed in the ranks of that "Old Guard," the advance of which, he said, he was only to cover. In fact, he made an admirable speech, at first a little technical, but in the main various, as well as skilful; running up and down the scale of the popular gamut with the ease of a practised master. As it was that of a debutant, in a certain sense, it may be said to have been the speech of the evening. The course of the arrangements continued to be such as was calculated, so to speak, to daily with the interest; for the next move was a surprise, Sir Henry Hoare being put up to second the resolution. He did so in a sturdy, country-gentleman-like style, which took with the Sir Henry recommended that the motto of Reformers should be, "A real bill, an honest bill, or no bill at all."

audience; and, as he was judiciously brief, his part was well played. If any objection were to be taken to the speech of Mr. W. E. Forster, who followed, candid and uncompromising as it was, it could be that it was perhaps a little too House of Commonsish for the occasion; and, indeed, in parts might have been a trifle too ratiocinative even for that assembly; but it was a solid contribution to the proceedings of the evening, and once or twice brought out angry demonstrations against the revolting Liberals, in which the name of Mr. Roebuck was especially audible.

The National Reform Union was directly represented by the next speaker, Mr. Torr, of Manchester, who gave the metropolitan audience a special taste of the quality of a northern platform orator. Every argument, every illustration, every gesture, almost every word, and in particular the pitch of his voice, was felicitously adapted to catch the suffrages of a popular assembly; and the mode in which he announced the fact of an alliance offensive and defensive between the Reform Union and the Reform League, and metaphorically took Mr. Beales by the hand, was a masterpiece of management of that which might have been a ticklish point. Possibly Mr. Torr excited the meeting—elicited more demonstrations in the form of cheers and hisses than any other speaker.

Coming immediately after one who had so stirred and swayed the assembly, Mr. Bright yet received the only real ovation of the evening. How long the crowd would have waved hats and handkerchiefs and shouted, standing as they did on their feet to a man, it is difficult to say, if it had not apparently occurred to them that they wanted to hear what he had to deliver. His manner, and indeed the tone of his speech, were in marked contrast to the earnest address of his predecessor. He argued out the case of the inequality and injustice of the Government bill with some minuteness; and it was not until he came to about the middle of his address that he fell to letting drop some of those parenthetic drolleries for which he is noted, and gave freedom to his capacity for rhetorical by-play. Perhaps he was less cheered than ordinary; but deep attention, and silence which was in a certain way intense, may well have been accepted as compensation for a comparative absence of demonstrative applause. His peroration was brief, but it is hardly necessary to say, well-turned and vigorous, he at that culminating point of his oration getting over a huskiness of voice which had troubled him all the while he was speaking. Again the whole assembly rose at him and cheered him to the very echo, while many occupants of the platform paid him the perhaps almost as pronounced compliment of leaving the room, desirous, doubtless, of taking away his address as their last impression.

Then Mr. Beales presented himself, and certainly he, too, was received as one of the special heroes of the occasion. He exerted himself manfully to justify the reception he obtained; but he had to struggle with, amongst other adverse circumstances, a hoarseness which at first rendered his articulation difficult; and all through his address he seemed to be falling back a good deal on gesticulation. Although he was, to a great extent, cordial and uncompromising in his statement that the association over which he presides had joined its forces to that of the Reform Union, he seemed rather to insinuate that the Union had come to the League than that the League had gone to the Union. At any rate, he indicated a longer life for the League, for he said distinctly that, although he would fight with the Union now for household suffrage, he bated no jot of his determination to go ultimately for a manhood franchise.

About this time the interest, which had been hitherto uniformly sustained, appeared slightly to flag, and some persons who sought to be still duly stimulated raised a cry for Mr. Stuart Mill, which was so decided, that the Rev. Dr. Thomas, who was named by the chairman to move the third resolution, and had come forward, fairly turned his back and disappeared; and Mr. Pope and Mr. Warburton, of Manchester, took up the theme, the latter trying to quell the energetic demand for Mr. Mill by stating that that gentleman would speak at a subsequent meeting, but begged to be excused then. It was not, however, until the chairman authoritatively declared that Mr. Mill should not address this meeting, that that which was becoming an uproar subsided. The resolution, the stringency of the terms of which appeared to meet with unqualified approval, was not illustrated by much speaking; indeed, it was hardly necessary; and, with its adoption by tumultuous acclamation, the proceedings of a meeting which for numbers and unanimity of sentiment and feeling

was in every sense a great political demonstration, were brought to a close.

The following resolutions were adopted with acclamations:—

1. That this meeting desires to express its heartfelt thanks to Messrs. Gladstone, Bright, and Mill, and to the other members of Parliament who have kept faith in endeavouring to secure a satisfactory reform bill during the present Session, and assures them of its entire confidence in their efforts to obtain a full, just, and equal recognition of the people's rights.
2. That this meeting utterly repudiates the bill of the Government, in its present form, as a settlement of the Reform question, and especially of the borough franchise; and as the House of Commons, by the divisions of April 12 and May 9, resolved to receive the partial, capricious, and unjust restrictions by which the Government seeks to prevent large numbers of householders from getting the franchise, resolves that agitation be continued until these restrictions are abolished, and an honest and straightforward measure is secured.
3. That this meeting, having no hope of any frank and free concession of equal popular rights from those who have always been the avowed enemies of Reform, calls upon the Liberal members of the House of Commons, if the bill of the Government arrive at a third reading without the amendment indicated in the last resolution, to reject it altogether and remit the question to the people.

THE RATING CLAUSES OF THE REFORM BILL.

The following enactments are to be proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the purpose of giving facilities to occupiers of acquiring the franchise in respect of dwelling-houses in boroughs in which the owner is liable by Act of Parliament to be rated instead of the occupier:—

1. The full rateable value of every house in a borough, and the full rate in the pound, and the name of the occupier, shall be entered in the rate-book.
2. In every borough forms of claim to be used by an occupier desirous of being rated for the purpose of acquiring the franchise under this Act shall be obtainable, free of charge, at every post-office in the borough at which money-orders are issued.
3. The form of claim shall have printed thereon the address of the overseers, and when signed by the claimant shall be transmitted free by post to the overseers.
4. On the receipt of any such claim the overseers shall return an answer stating the amount of rate, if any, due in respect of the premises.
5. The overseers on the receipt of the claim and on the payment of the rate, if any then due, shall make an entry in the rate-book declaring the liability of the occupier to be rated and pay rates in respect of such house, and such occupier shall be liable accordingly, and the overseers shall give notice to the owner that the occupier has so claimed as aforesaid, and thereupon the owner shall be discharged from his liability to be rated or pay any rate in respect of such house until the occupier makes default in payment of such rate as hereinafter mentioned.
6. Where the occupier of any dwelling-house that has been let to him free from rate claims to be rated, and to pay the rates for any rent due or accruing due from him to the owner any sum which the owner would have been liable to pay if the occupier had not paid the rates in pursuance of such claim as aforesaid; where the occupier of any house having claimed to be rated and to pay rates as aforesaid in respect of a dwelling-house makes default in payment of the rates due from him, the overseers shall give notice of such default to the owner, and thereupon the liability of the owner to be rated and to pay rates in respect of such house shall revive in the same manner in all respects as if no claim had been made by the occupier; that the owner shall be entitled, if the occupier is liable under a contract with him to pay the rate, to compensate himself for the default so made by the occupier by adding to any rent due or accruing due from the occupier any sum which he as owner has thus become liable to pay on account of rate by reason of the default of the occupier, and shall have the same remedies for recovering the same as if it were rent in arrear; but no notice shall be given to the owner by the overseers under this section of the default of the occupier until the overseers have served notice on the occupier stating their intention to apply to the owner for payment of the rate due, and the occupier has made default in paying such rate for seven clear days after the receipt of such notice; all expenses incurred by the overseers under this section shall be deemed to be expenses incurred in the registration of voters, and shall be allowed accordingly.

THE CHINA TEA-RACE.—The latest advices from China are to the effect that six ships have entered for the race to England—viz., the Ariel, Serica, Taitaiing, Teeping, Sir Lancelot, and Black Prince. Although the Ariel won the run home last year by a neck, the shippers of the new season's tea this year have to a certain extent transferred their favours to the Black Prince as the winner, but still retain the fast ship of last year's race as a favourite for a place.

THE FOUNDER OF CALIFORNIA.—A California letter states that Marshall, who discovered gold in California, has recently found a rich silver mine on almost identically the same spot where he first discovered gold in 1848. After an interval of eighteen years he resumes the pick and shovel at the very point where the precious metal first met his vision, and which discovery has peopled this coast and built this great city. Marshall is a half hermit, misanthropic, wild, and erratic character. He lives alone in a little house in the suburbs of the village of Caloma, where he has for some years past cultivated a little garden, raised grapes, and made wine in a small way, from the sale of which he has managed to live. He is a tall, slendy man, with grizzly hair and beard, and wild eyes. For years he has lived in great poverty, but was too proud to receive assistance.

HOW THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL WILL WORK.—Wherever the population exceeds 50,000 the constituency is already liberal enough, and would not be made more liberal by doubling or trebling it. It is in the towns of more moderate dimensions that we must look for some change, by the addition of a new class to the existing constituents. No doubt, the great majority of these will vote by influences well known to agents, to committees, to candidates, and to everybody in the least conversant with local or public affairs. The real question lies between these influences. Some of them are regular, permanent, natural, and salutary; others less so. There are very few people in the political world who are in a condition to deny that it is fair to expect a man to vote with his master, his employer, or his landlord, unless he feels strong reasons why he should not; and if the population of a town generally vote in that way, it cannot be said that the opinions and interests of that town are ill-represented. The tests of residence and personal ratepaying indirectly secure full scope for the influence of a man's regular social connection. On the other hand, when he becomes a mere unit, numbered but hardly named, making an appearance for the occasion, and saved trouble and, as much as possible, cost in the maintenance of his franchise, he is so far thrown upon the influences of irregular organisations made for electoral purposes, and, above all, on the influence of money. Indeed, the great question now lies between the legitimate influence of local standing and local connection and the corrupt influence of money coming into a town nobody knows how, and sown broadcast among the electors, whom, of course, it recognises only in the capacity of men possessing a commodity which they are ready to sell to the highest bidder. The test of ratepaying, in proportion to the rigour with which it is applied, will secure the permanency, the respectability, and the trustworthiness of the elector; but it will also secure that the influences which ought to sway him shall have due play, as well as the other influences certain to operate in every contested election.—*Times*.

TRADE AND WAGES IN NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE.—Although the agitation with reference to the hours of labour and the rate of remuneration among many sections of the working classes in North and East Lancashire has considerably subsided, difficulties still exist in some branches of trade. The weavers in the employ of Mr. J. Goodair, at Preston, have struck work owing to the posting of certain new rules which they consider objectionable and unfair. In some manufacturing establishments in Preston a rule is in force to the effect that the operatives must give a certain notice—a fortnight or a month—before they can leave, while the masters reserve to themselves the power of instantly dismissing their hands. A new rule like this has been adopted at Mr. Goodair's mill, where hitherto the notice has been equal on each side. Another rule adopted at the same establishment intimates that if any weaver is absent more than two hours without sending a satisfactory reason for such absence both work and previously-earned wages will be forfeited. Formerly the period of absence was six, not two hours. Against the two rules named the operative weavers have struck work. Several of the operative loomers and drawers of Preston are on strike with reference to the adoption of a new list of prices, and they are receiving pecuniary aid from the Preston Amalgamated Trades' Council. At the last meeting of this council a deputation from the tailors of London, who are now out in consequence of the difference caused by the introduction of a time log, attended and gave an explanation of affairs. After a full account of the difficulty had been given, the following resolution was passed:—"That this meeting recommends the case of the tailors of London to the consideration of the trade societies of Preston, and that the delegate, Mr. Ord, be furnished with credentials from this council to enable him to visit the societies comprising the same." At Over Darwen the joiners are in a somewhat unsettled state. A six months' notice which they gave for an advance of two shillings per week in their wages has just expired; but, owing to what is termed the "unfortunate decision of the arbitration in the late disputes between the operatives and master joiners of Blackburn," they have decided that it would not be expedient to enforce their demand in accordance with the notice. The master joiners of Darwen propose to adopt the Blackburn time scale—fifty-four instead of fifty-five hours per week, and an advance of wages also, if increased remuneration is given at Blackburn. At Blackburn the weavers employed by Mr. W. Coddington, Crossfield mill, have turned out. They allege that they have been kept constantly "playing" for want of beams; that the work they have had has been very bad; and that they have not been able to earn anything like ordinary wages.

DEPUTATION TO MR. GLADSTONE.

A DEPUTATION from the National Reform Union, consisting of about 200 gentlemen, waited upon the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, at his residence, Carlton House-terrace, on Saturday afternoon last, to lay before him the views of the Union, and to present addresses from various Reform associations of the north of England. Among those accompanying the deputation were Mr. Forster, M.P.; Mr. Ayrton, M.P.; Mr. Stansfeld, M.P.; Mr. Bazley, M.P.; Mr. Potter, M.P.; Mr. Bright, M.P.; Mr. Hadfield, M.P.; Colonel Gilpin, M.P.; Mr. Fawcett, M.P.; and Sir John Gray, M.P. Mr. Wilson (Manchester), president of the Reform Union, introduced the deputation. Addresses from local bodies of reformers in various districts were presented by Mr. Alderman Richardson; Mr. Thomson, Burslem; Mr. Brown, Preston; Mr. Graham, Blackburn; Mr. Spedding, Stockport; Mr. Farmer, Longton; and others. Several speakers were then called upon, who spoke against the Government bill and in favour of household suffrage.

Mr. Gladstone said, whatever pain, astonishment, or disappointment he might feel, and he felt much, at the present state of affairs with regard to Parliamentary Reform, no portion of those feelings had reference to himself. His own slender exertions had brought in such a deluge of letters of approval that he would be ashamed to own. He knew there were many sections in the Liberal party who might differ in degree and time on the question of popular progress. It had been his object to reconcile these sections, and he had always acted on this ground; and there were certain principles on which they could all agree—that they could endeavour to forward a straightforward measure without any attempt to defraud, under cover of granting a boon. He would now speak of what was called the Liberal party in Parliament, for there was a Liberal party. The right hon. gentleman here told a story a hunting party. One of the gentlemen meeting a countryman asked if he had seen the fox? "Yes, he had seen the fox; it was a small one, and he had seen it run up a tree!" The fox, of course, was a squirrel. Well, their party was a small one; but he hoped they would not run up a tree. Whether few or many, he hoped they would act on the true principles of the Constitution. On April 12 the Opposition was beaten by 21; and it had been alleged against them that six old Tories had voted with them. One of these was Lord Cranbourne, whose conduct during his term of office, and when he quitted the Cabinet, had been most honourable; while the others were amongst the most advanced of the Conservative party. Referring to the borough franchise, he asserted that the principle of personal rating was mischievous, and one he must utterly reject. It was the beginning of new strife, and the end of it would be the establishment of Reform on popular principles. The immediate question, however, was what they were to do with regard to the present measure, and he conceived it was their duty to use every remaining opportunity to strike out this odious principle of inequality and injustice. It was said that every man would obtain the franchise, but upon what condition?—that he should change the tenure of his house, and the result would be that the worst men would come on the register, while the best would remain off. A proprietor with a hundred cottages would have a new and subtle incentive to corruption. Under such circumstances it was impossible he could accept personal rating. He had brought forward the £5 line because he thought they should proceed by measured steps. He contemplated with an aversion he could not describe that the House of Commons, in which his life had been passed, should be inveigled and tripped into household suffrage, when probably not twenty men were in favour of it. That £5 line was gone, and he must now, with such advice as he could get, and by the aid of the gallant and courageous leaders of popular principles in the House of Commons, strive to adopt a common plan, founded on no inequalities, and one which would not have the effect of setting landlord against tenant. In conclusion, with reference to the bill of the Government, he said they must now do what they could to remove everything that would operate unequally or unfairly towards those who were to be enfranchised.

Mr. Bright, having been called upon, stated it had been asked by one of the speakers what ought to be done. There were two things that could be done. He was for meetings, of course, everywhere; and he was of opinion that, through the instrumentality of the Reform Union and the Reform League, forms of petitions to Parliament could be sent to every place in England, Scotland, and Ireland, they could have such a number of petitions as had never been equalled. A gentleman said the people would not sign petitions. Mr. Bright did not believe it. Last year, during the recess of Earl Russell's Government, although there was comparatively little agitation in this way, there could not have been less than a thousand petitions. They must fight by meetings and petitions, and if they failed the blame would lie at the door of Parliament, and not at that of the people. He could not conceive it possible that the Liberal constituencies of the gentlemen who voted against them would be very well pleased, and if those gentlemen would write and explain their reasons as some gentlemen had done lately, he was sure they would be found to be wholly unsatisfactory. If what he suggested were carried out, they would soon have a measure that would not only give satisfaction, but that would set the question at rest during their own lives and that of the generation that followed them.

The deputation then withdrew.

PARLIAMETARY REGISTERS.—Lord Amberley has laid before the House of Commons a bill declaring that no person shall be entitled to have his name inserted more than once upon a register of persons entitled to vote for members of Parliament; and that if from any cause the name of any voter shall appear more than once on the revising barrister, upon proof of notice having been sent to such voter by some person on the list requiring him to attend and elect in respect of which qualification he will be upon the register, shall, unless such voter attend before him and make his election, strike off from the register every repetition of the name after the first entry of it. But if he attends he may make his election.

THE CATASTROPHE AT NEWCASTLE.—The adjourned inquest on the bodies of the three persons drowned by the breaking of the gangway of the Tyne General Ferry Company was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne on Monday evening. The lost gangway had been fished out of the river, and had been examined by Mr. Burroughs, the surveyor to the Board of Trade, and by Mr. Toward, an engineer. These gentlemen were examined at the inquest. The gangway, by the evidence of the official witnesses, had been defective in construction. The angle-irons were not run right through, but were spliced in the middle, and the main strength of the gangway depended on them. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased were drowned by the breaking of the gangway, and that, after hearing the evidence of Mr. Toward and Mr. Burroughs, they were of opinion that the gangway had not been sufficiently strong.

THE LIVINGSTONE EXPEDITION.—At the fortnightly meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, on Monday night, Sir Roderick Murchison, Bart., K.C.B., presided. In a few opening remarks, he said it would be a search in vain for the explorers to go into the interior of Africa in quest of Dr. Livingstone, and it was only their intention to go to the spot where he is reported to have been killed, and to put to rest the doubt whether he is dead or not. Her Majesty's Government has granted a sum of money in aid of the expedition, and Lord Stanley and the Admiralty have behaved most liberally in furthering the designs of the society. Mr. E. T. Young, a clear-headed and well-acquainted man, who knows the River Zambesi and the people in the country which he has to traverse, will take charge of the expedition, which consists of three others besides himself. They will take the little iron and steel boat now building at Chatham, have it carried across the country till they reach a point above the rapids, and then sail for the northern end of Lake Nyassa, which is only twenty or thirty miles from the spot where Livingstone is reported to have been murdered, and then get authentic information. He would remind his hearers that a caravan of Arab traders had passed within ten miles of the spot within a month or two after the alleged murder, and the report they heard was that Dr. Livingstone had passed into the friendly country beyond. Further, he had that morning received a letter from Dr. Kirke stating that the Consul had strictly examined the Johanna men, but could not detect that they had told any falsehood. But Dr. Kirke also states that a report has reached him that a trader, just arrived at the coast from the interior of the country which Dr. Livingstone intended to visit, said that he had seen a white man there. At the time of writing Dr. Kirke had not found this trader. Nevertheless, the prevalence of reports such as these show the propriety of the search set on foot. The president concluded by announcing that the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society had that morning been awarded by the council to Admiral Butakov, of the Russian navy, for his discoveries in Central Asia. Captain Sherard Osborne then read a long paper on Chinese Tartary, which led to a discussion upon the encroachments of Russia in Central Asia.

SIR RICHARD STEELE'S COTTAGE, HAVERSTOCK-HILL.

"STEELE'S COTTAGE," Haverstock-hill, a well-known and interesting relic of a peculiarly active period of English literature, is now being pulled down. Its situation, as most intelligent Londoners know, is exactly opposite the Load of Hay tavern, a hostelry famous in past as in present times. Since Thackeray's lectures revived interest in the English humourists of the eighteenth century, most people know something about Steele as a literary colleague and companion of Addison. He was born in Dublin, in 1671, nearly two centuries ago; his father was private secretary to James, Duke of Ormond, one of Ireland's best Lord Lieutenants. Steele was sent to the Charterhouse to be educated, where he met and contracted his friendship with Addison; thence he went to Oxford, where, while an undergraduate, he held the small post of "postmaster." On leaving the University he enlisted in the Guards; but his literary attainments attracted the attention of Lord Cutts, his Colonel, and he obtained an Ensign's commission. In 1702 he first appeared in public as an author by the performance of his admirable comedy, "The Funeral," or, "Grief à la Mode." In 1709 he began the *Tatler*, the pioneer of our periodical literature. He was a staunch Whig, on good terms with the Whig statesmen of the day, fellow-members of the renowned "Kit Kat" club; and his party made him a Commissioner of Stamps. In 1711 he began, in conjunction with Addison, the *Spectator*, and in 1713 the *Guardian*. But in the latter year he was dismissed from his office by the Tories. He was then elected M.P. for Stockbridge, in Hampshire, but was soon dismissed from the House of Commons for writing two political pamphlets, which were held to be treasonable. When arraigned at the bar of the House he was warmly supported by his friends—Lord Stanhope stood at one side of him, Addison at the other. He spoke for three hours, with spirit and eloquence; but the *Crisis* and the *Englishman* were declared by a great majority to be "scandalous libels," and he was expelled. On the accession of George I. Steele was rewarded for his faithfulness to the Hanoverian cause, being knighted, and made surveyor of the stables at Hampton Court. He re-entered Parliament, wrote much, suffered much from poverty, which he owed partly, like too many sons of genius, to his own improvidence. Some time before his death he left the cottage on Haverstock-hill, and retired into Wales; and finally, at his seat, Llangunnor, near Carmarthen, he died, on Sept. 1, 1729. He married twice. His second wife brought him a small estate and one daughter, who married Lord Trevor, of Bromham. Steele's fame chiefly arises from his genius as an essayist on the lighter topics of social life. He exhibits an easy Horatian humour, with singular purity in language, much dramatic skill, and some inventive power. In conjunction with his graver and more elevated colleague, Addison, he formed the taste and reformed the manners of that generation of which he was, indeed, an ornament; and so long as our language is read his essays will be appreciated for their geniality, their freshness and liveliness, and their wholesome good sense.

The only allusion we find Steele makes to his residence at the cottage is in a letter to Pope, dated June 1, 1712:—"I am at a solitude, a house between Hampstead and London, where Sir Charles Sedley died. This circumstance set me a thinking and ruminating upon the employments in which men of wit exercise themselves," &c. Sir Charles Sedley was one of the most licentious, but one of the most accomplished, courtiers of the reign of Charles II. He was the author of several comedies, of "Antony and Cleopatra," a tragedy, and of many short amatory poems, which are now scarcely ever read.

THE SITUATION.—The proceedings in the House of Commons furnish a remarkable commentary on the "principles" of the Government in regard to Reform. The first of these principles, as we have been repeatedly told, is abhorrence of a hard and fast line; and accordingly we find that a hard and fast line is to be drawn both in the county occupation franchise and the lodger franchise. And, practically, there will also be a line in the occupation franchise of the Scotch boroughs. In Scotland it is the custom to exempt all houses below £4 rental from rates; and, though the law is not compulsory on that point, the usage is almost universal. Under ordinary circumstances, therefore, the operation of the new franchise will be substantially the same as that indicated in Mr. Gladstone's amendment—household suffrage, tempered by the exclusion of persons too poor to be reckoned on for the payment of rates; Mr. Gladstone's plan having, however, this advantage, that it established a uniform system, and did not make the enfranchisement of tenants depend on the caprice of parish boards or the self-interest of landlords. The next great "principle" of the Government is the requirement from every occupier who claims to vote the personal payment of rates at the full amount, without the intervention of the landlord in any form. It therefore follows as an obvious and logical result that, while the personal payment of the full rates is to be exacted from an occupier in an English borough, an occupier in a Scotch borough is to be admitted, although he pays only half the rates, the other half being paid by the landlord, and that lodgers are to be indiscriminately admitted without reference to the sacred principle of personal payment at all. It would be idle to discuss, it is enough to state, these things. The irony of the situation is complete.—*Full Mall Gazette*.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

PERHAPS the most unfortunate circumstance as to the want of effect in approaching the building of the Paris Exhibition at its principal entrance from the bridge of Jena is that it is almost entirely concealed by the jumble of incongruous edifices, and especially by the hydraulic sheds on the waterside, which are of no character of architecture. Of course, in proceeding along the main avenue the buildings are resolved into their various uses; but there is no attempt at order or arrangement. On each side of the gate are the pavilions belonging to the two principal forges of France—those of Petin, Gaudet, and Co., and the Chatillon and Commeny Company. Beyond these two buildings stand a pair of very handsome cast-iron fountains, while behind, on the left, is a shed devoted to gas-meters and the temporary hospital for workmen—the *Secours aux Blessés*, an institution which is always established in France wherever public works are in progress. Next comes the church, already described in our columns, for the display of ecclesiastical ornament; and round the corner stands the big lighthouse, which is 200 ft. high from the base of the rockwork, and all built of boiler-plates. The buildings between the piece of water on which this stands are not very imposing, consisting of the photoculture place, looking like a big bell glass for forcing early vegetables, a wineshop, two windmills, a galvanoplastic and a hydroplastic institution. Beyond this strange combination of objects are the boiler-houses of some great engineering firm, and then, on turning round in a line with the outer circle of the building, the visitor reaches the model houses for workmen, which are of a very varied character, and are simply examples of tenements already adopted at some of the great industrial centres. This leads immediately to the back of the Imperial pavilion and a district of little windmills and plaster temples, by which we regain the west side of the lake, where the lighthouse stands, and once more plunge amidst machinery, and look at the steel bridge connecting the Quay d'Orsay with the water's edge. Turning to the east, we come to the pavilion of the "Association for the Assistance of the Wounded by Sea or Land." Then comes the building of the American Ministry of War; and that of the French—a very poor, shedlike edifice, with but little at present inside it. Behind this is a much more interesting building, devoted to French marine engines, and especially those belonging to ships of war, mining engines, and other large machinery, which are supplemented in the line of sheds ranged along the northern side of the Champ de Mars. Quite close to the *Cresnot* (the French marine exhibition) is a very tasteful wooden edifice of Swiss fashion, and surrounded with a verandah on the upper story. It is the establishment of M. Vauy, the Emperor's baker; and adjoining it is that of M. Rabourdin, a celebrated flour-miller, who supplies the various experimental ovens with the materials for loaves, both "civil and military."

This, then, is the aspect of that portion of the park containing the Imperial Pavilion, of which we this week publish

an Engraving. Of course this building attracts crowds of visitors; and it cannot be denied that it is very effective in appearance, its construction having been left to the fancy of M. Lehmann, who has given himself such free scope as to include in it a great central saloon of the style of Louis XIV., composed of lofty arches and leading to two smaller apartments—one of the Louis XVI. and another of the Algerian style of architecture, each of which forms a kind of museum for exhibiting articles in accordance with the architecture. An exterior gallery, reached by four separate flights of marble steps, renders the saloons independent, and makes a promenade for the visitors.

There is a coolness, cleanliness, and lightness about the Norwegian Court—of which we also publish an Engraving—that makes it peculiarly attractive; and, indeed, it is one of the most interesting portions of the Exhibition, for its simple ornamental details as well as for the piquant costumes which may be seen there. Objects reminding one of the fjords and the distant lovely seters, or mountain dairies, and the simple manufactures of the Norwegian peasants, as well as those of the hardy coastmen, are always interesting; so there need be little wonder that amidst all the strange artificial glitter of the more pretentious courts Norway should be generally well filled with visitors. The growing interest of the public for this court may also be attributed to the costume figures representing the various inhabitants of the districts in their picturesque "habits as they live." Norwegian and Swedish Lapps are represented here, wizards who once boasted the power of being able to raise the wind—an accomplishment which especially belongs to them no longer, since they have given up the practice of mysterious arts, and are now semi-civilised enthusiasts, with a religion not a little tinged, however, by the dark and wild superstitions of their ancestors. Then there is a Dalecarlian couple of the parish of Mora, carrying their infant to church to be baptized; and Norwegian groups from Satersdalen and Tellmarken, with such quaint old primitive dresses that they are an unceasing source of interest and amusement.

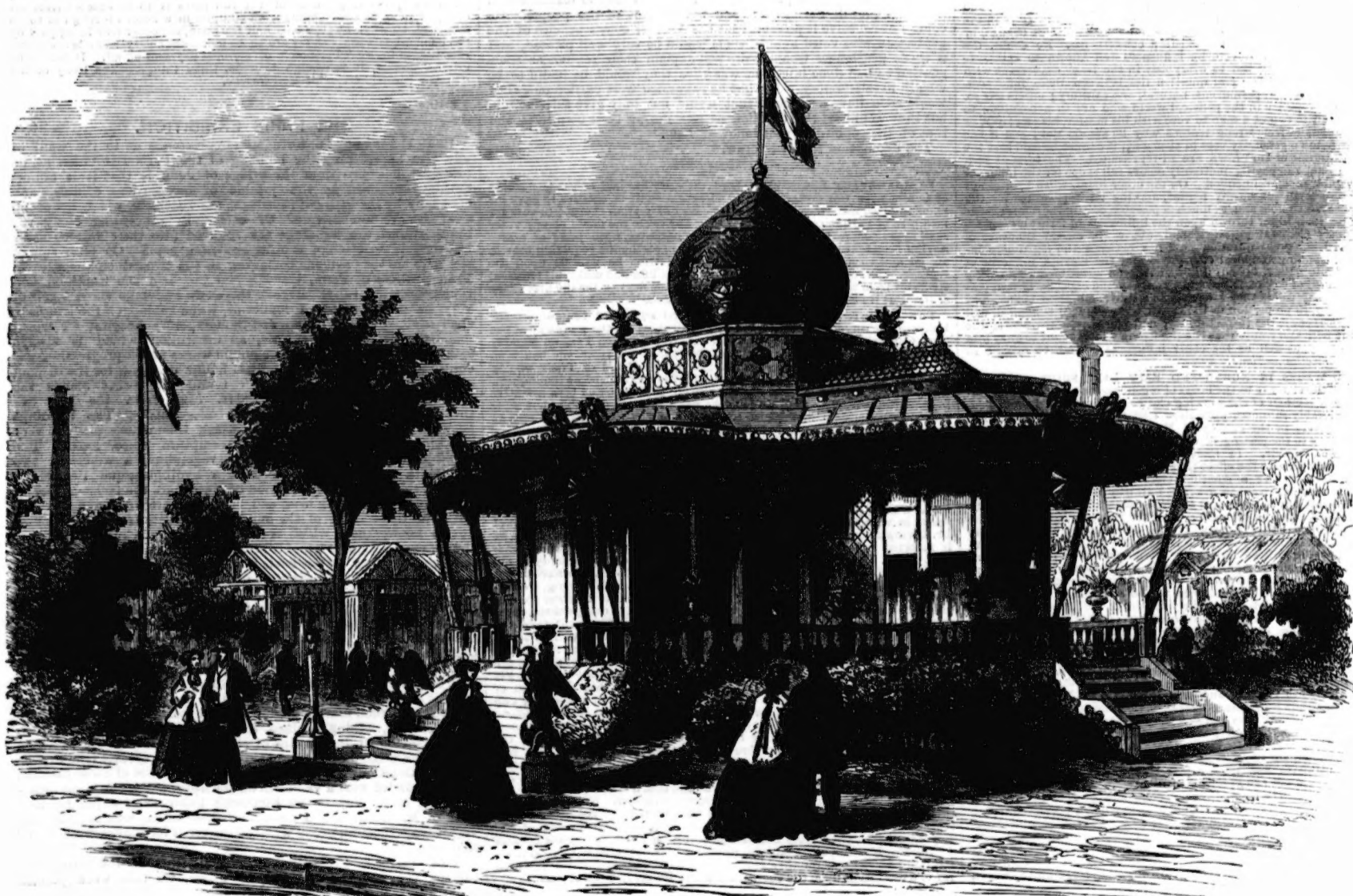
The great attraction of these Norwegian and Swedish costumes has now extended to those of other courts, and Russia, France, Morocco, South America, Tunis, and Egypt have displayed figures exhibiting the peculiar and interesting costumes of their people. Amidst the gorgeous shawls and robes, the splendid Oriental furniture, the glittering pipe stems, slippers, yataghans, pistols, and the glowing embroidery of the Egyptian Court, the visitor comes upon a niche where four models display the dresses of a fellah or ordinary labourer, looking, with his bronzed face and hands, his red cloak, crimson and yellow skirt, his sash and turban, as though he had just come in holiday costume from his hut near the works of the Suez Canal. Next to him is a negress—a "full black"—with a flaring dress, consisting of crimson mualin head gear, cherry-coloured gown,

spotted with gold and trimmed with white lace and gold fringes, stockings, and yellow slippers. Even more gorgeous is the attire of a brown Abyssinian slave, whose embroidery is gold leaves, while her purple girdle is fastened with a buckle of gold, set with turquoise. More familiar is the last figure—that of a bazaar merchant, his dusky face set off by the turban and fez, while his dress is the true Egyptian costume of long blue cloak, coloured shirt and sash, and scarlet slippers. It is to the Salemluk, the palace of the Viceroy, which has been prepared for the use of his Highness during his intended visit, that we must go to see Egypt in all its glory, however. This building, which is a little to the west of the Turkish mosque, is an elegant Oriental pavilion, with cupola entrances, and architectural decorations in the purest Arab taste. It is, perhaps, the only building in all the park of which it can be said that it is perfect of its kind. Over the entrance is the verse from the Koran so often inscribed over Arab doorways, "O thou who openest the doors, open unto us the door of God." And, even in the absence of statues, sculpture, friezes, or figure-painting (all of which are forbidden to Mohammedans), the rich arabesques and the verses and inscriptions which, in the flowing character of the writing look like new forms of arabesque ornament, make up beauties which, with

as these are, for state show, and as a remnant of former splendour. It is but a short distance from the stable of the maharis to the pavilion of the Bey of Tunis, which is a reduced model of the real pavilion at Barda, and is wonderfully suggestive at its very entrance of its external staircase; for there are not only a couple of guardhouses but a pair of grated dens for wild beasts, the tenants for which have not yet made their appearance. It is below the state apartments, on the eastern side of this palace, that we come upon the Tunisian café, of which we gave an illustration last week, and where real Tunisian coffee is now dispensed by a real Tunisian beauty, who, however, does not veil her face. At the side of the café, again, is an Arab barber's, with its sign of a brass basin and its internal furniture of "divans" and queer Oriental nicknacks. Tunis may be said to be represented by these three buildings: they are a whole "Arabian Nights" in themselves. An equally remarkable and scarcely less suggestive building, in its way, is the chapel erected by M. Baudry in the Roumanian quarter. Its strange towers, with the irregular piercings which give them the appearance of being twisted, and its singular open porch and decoration, are amongst the most remarkable of the representative structures now completed.

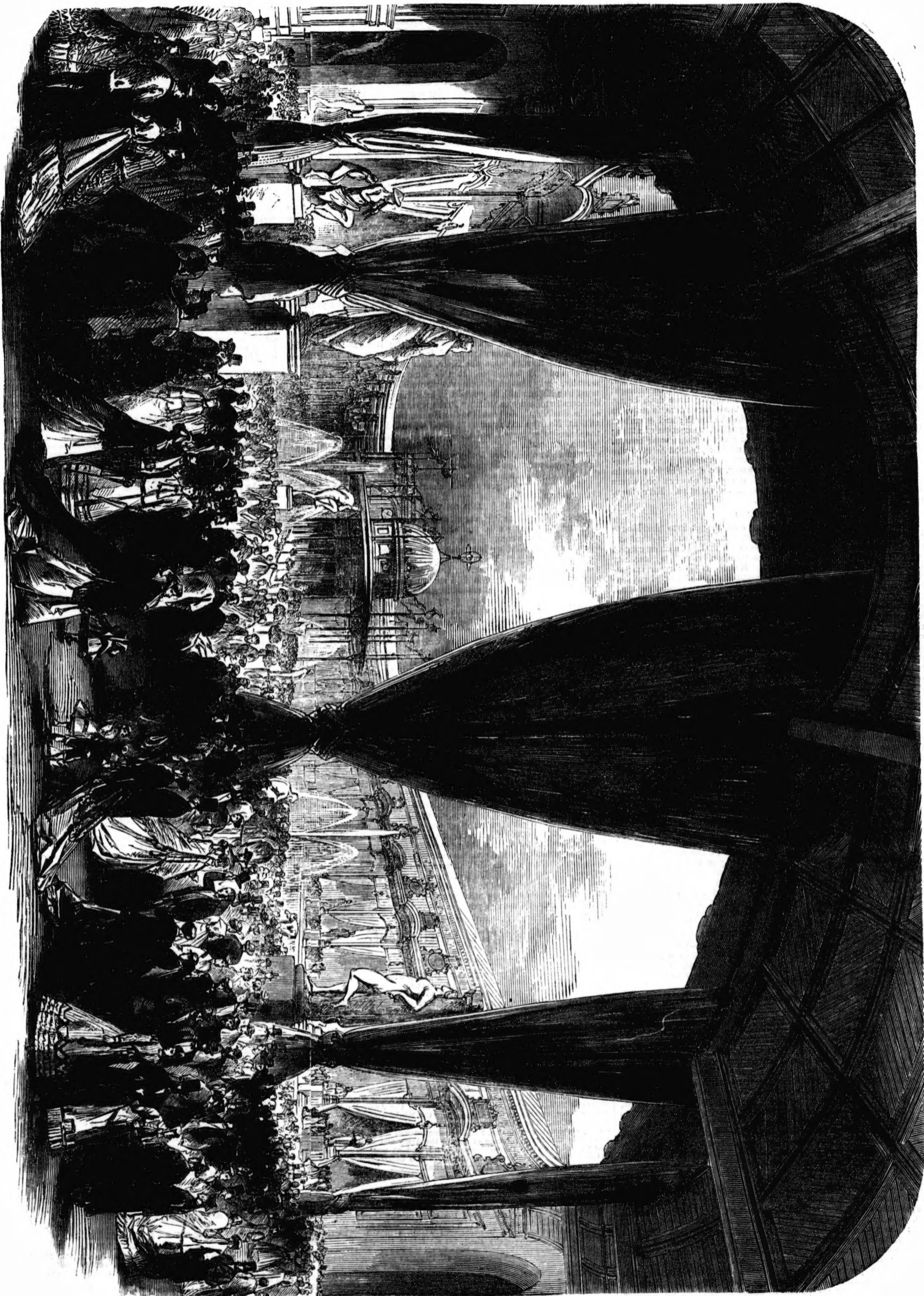


SIR RICHARD STEELE'S COTTAGE ON HAVERSTOCK-HILL, NOW IN COURSE OF DEMOLITION.



THE EMPEROR'S PAVILION IN THE PARIS EXHIBITION PARK.

the rich and glowing colours introduced leave nothing to be desired. Enter the principal apartment of this building, and you see at once a picture of Oriental life, for it is a model of the room in which the Viceroy was born. Of course it is the Oriental life belonging to a Prince, and the carved and painted ceiling, the marble floor with its central fountain, the rich hangings and decorations, the costly furniture, and the pleasant terraces leading to the garden, are all evidences of the luxury that belongs to a Viceroy of the ancient land: a land whose antiquity is well represented here by the curious metal inlaying of the doors and the queer, big Arab locks, of marvellous pattern, as well as by the broad bands of blue and white in which the exterior is painted. Not far from the pavilion is another smaller building, which is its principal accessory. This edifice is no more than an ordinary Egyptian house, and is the residence of a dozen Arabs and Nubians who have charge of his Highness's dromedaries and donkeys, whose stables are situated in a convenient wing which prolongs one end of the dwelling. The house has the ordinary flat roof, though probably the attendants have not yet made use of it for sleeping purposes, even during the hot weather of last week. The dromedaries, for whose comfort these retainers are responsible, are of the white species known as maharis, and are used, not as beasts of burden, but as swift runners. They are employed in carrying messages long distances, and, while secrecy is necessary, or until the electric telegraph is fully established, will perhaps hold their own; after which the breed will probably die out, or only be kept,



THE SWEDISH AND NORWEGIAN SECTION IN THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 303.

BLACKBIRDS.

THE flock of blackbirds—blackbirds with white throats—or, to speak without a figure, clergymen of the Established Church and Dissenting ministers, which annually visits the House of Commons, has been unusually large this year. These blackbirds make their appearance at the beginning of May, stop about three weeks or a month, and then depart to their usual haunts. This year this flock, as we have said, has been uncommonly large. On some nights as many as forty or fifty persons have visited us. Parson is their generic name, but the genus comprises many species. There is the State parson, the Independent, the Baptist, the Wesleyan, besides others of lesser note. These gentlemen are exceedingly partial to the House of Commons; and this is not surprising, for are they not themselves, in their way, orators? and is it not natural that they should like to come here to see our greatest orators and to hear them speak? There was a time when the scientific naturalist could easily distinguish the different species. Each then had its peculiar dress. All were clothed in black—but the clothes of each species was of a different form or make from the others. The State Church had its own cut: long straight coat, M. B. waistcoat, and white band instead of necktie. The respectable Independent wore simply an evening dress—tail coat, &c.; the Baptist was clothed in like fashion, but the clothes were ill made, as if by a village tailor; whilst the Wesleyans, being but badly paid, were rather more seedy and more travel-stained, their being of migratory habits. But all this has very much changed. Independents, Baptists, and Wesleyans now ape the Church in dress as in other things. As they now build Gothic steeple-houses and call them churches, read prayers, and chant the psalms, so they—at least most of them, especially the young men—have taken to the straight coat and the M. B. waistcoat. Few have as yet assumed the priestly band. If, therefore, you see a necktie with the smallest of bows, you may set down the wearer as one of the sects. It is noticeable, though, that this distinction is vanishing. The tie is becoming smaller, and we may expect to see it soon supplanted by the band. We have had, and have always had occasionally, a number of Popish priests about the House; and, except that Protestant ministers do not shave so closely as these priests, there is now very little difference in appearance between the Popish priest and the Protestant minister. The Archbishop of Westminster might go to Convocation and excite no special notice, and to a meeting of the Congregational Union and not be thought very eccentric. Such are the changes changing time doth bring. And here let us note that amongst the Dissenters there is now, as well as in the Establishment, a small Broad Church; and members of this Church are easily known. They affect a looseness of attire; their dress is scarcely clerical at all, and many of them wear beards. Now, if a preacher wears a beard you may decide that he is of the Broad Church; and free-and-easy apparel is always typical of free-and-easy doctrine. As our readers know, we spend much time in the lobby; we are fond of it as a capital post of observation, where we can study human nature in almost all its varieties. Here, then, are some of the results of our studies.

WIRE-PULLING.

These clerical gentlemen are pretty sure to get into the House even on the busiest nights. In the first place, they are *exigent*, or, say, persevering; they will take no denial as final. If a cleric cannot get into the gallery by the aid of one member, he will try another. If the galleries be full, he will wait. He does not believe in impossibilities; he believes in final perseverance; and almost always he receives his reward. Besides, our readers must remember that, though in the lobby these gentlemen seem to be of no importance, most of them—especially those from boroughs sending members to Parliament—have more or less influence at home in deciding elections; and so, whenever a member comes to know that the clergyman of his town or one of the Dissenting ministers is in the lobby, incontinently he rushes out to show him civility. Nor does it much signify whether the clerical gentleman is a supporter of the said member or not; for if the clerical gentleman be a supporter, he must receive attention; and if he be an opponent, an effort must be made to mitigate his opposition. We lately saw and heard this little performance in the lobby. Of course, we speak of the performers under fictitious names:—"Lord Smallborough," said a witty agent to that noble Lord, as he was passing into the House, "Blattergowli, the Dissenting parson of your place, is here." "Well," said the noble Lord, "what of that? The fellow never supports me." "No; but"—And here the agent whispered something inaudible to bystanders into the noble Lord's ear. Whereupon the noble Lord, audibly, "Hem! I suppose I must do the polite to the fellow; it's a cursed bore, though. Where is he?" "He is standing there." And straightway the noble Lord was bowing to Blattergowli; Blattergowli, flattered by the condescension, was bowing to the noble Lord; and, in the twinkling of an eye at most, the noble Lord, having got permission, convoyed the reverend gentleman under the gallery. "Well," said my Lord to the agent, "I have been and done it." "You did it well, my Lord," was the reply of the agent, looking mysteriously knowing the while; "and if you would just go and talk to him under the gallery, you would clinch the nail." And straightway my Lord went and "clinched the nail." "You have done a good stroke of business," said we to Mr. Sharp. "Haven't I? Egad! that move is worth at least two or three votes; for this parson, when he gets back to Smallborough, will never cease chanting the praises of my client. My opinion has always been," he continued, tapping his snuffbox, "that a little of this condescension and civility, spiced with a touch of flattery, is worth a great deal more than spouting and writing in a place like Smallborough." So you see, reader, the wires of puppets a hundred miles away can be pulled even in the lobby of the House of Commons; ay, and are pulled, in manifold ways, every night.

A TREAT FOR THE BLACKBIRDS.

The blackbirds, on Thursday night in last week, had a rare treat; and if those clerical gentlemen present came to study oratory they had some excellent models, for on that night most of our great speakers displayed their powers—Gladstone, John Stuart Mill, Fawcett, Lowe, Bright, Roebuck, and Disraeli all spoke that night, and each in his special style, and all with their accustomed power. There were the flowery, fervid eloquence of Gladstone; the close, exhaustive reasoning of Stuart Mill, radiant with light, and clothed in the simplest and most appropriate of languages; the well-argued speech of the Cambridge professor; Bright's clearness, precision, and force; the sarcastic, trenchant, biting severity of Roebuck; the clever, ingenious rhetoric of the leader and, it may be said, the master of the House. Here, then, was a feast for our clerics. Well might one person say to another, as they walked out of the House, "We have indeed been fortunate, brother. The lines have fallen unto us in pleasant places to-night."

JOHN STUART MILL.

Mr. John Stuart Mill had not, we think, made a set speech before this Session; but his speech that night, though not long, amply compensated us for his previous silence. "Mr. Mill," said a friend of ours, who had been reading the philosopher's works, "dwells in light;" and this is true. And it is further true that Mr. Mill can communicate to others the light in which he dwells. There are still some ignorant writers on public affairs—mostly, though, of the bitter Tory sect—who pronounce that Mill in the House of Commons has proved a failure. One is constantly reading this stupid nonsense, and hearing it bandied about by our political parrots, who, having no power to think themselves, do nothing but repeat what they see in the papers at their clubs. "Yes," said a country member to us the other day, "Mill is a great writer—at least, so I am told—for I never read any of his books; but in the House I consider him a failure. And I said it would be so; for these great philosophers never succeed in the House. We don't want philosophy there, my dear Sir, but common sense." Meaning thereby—if he could but know it, which he never can—common nonsense. The truth is, all his detractors notwithstanding, Mr. Mill is not a

failure, but a brilliant success, as impartial history will acknowledge when it comes to notice the actors of this present time. Mr. Mill has not spoken frequently, and has never made a long speech; but of all the speeches that have been delivered this Parliament his, above all, are most worthy of being preserved. Failure! When did he fail? Mr. Lowe, on Mill's first appearance as a speaker, tried a fall with him, and got promptly "floored." Disraeli sneered at his notions of martial law, and the next day got a most exhaustive and crushing reply; to which the great master of rhetoric has never ventured to answer. The opinions set forth in that speech of Mr. Mill's have, by-the-way, been since confirmed to the very letter by the Lord Chief Justice. And now let our readers peruse the speech which Mr. Mill delivered on Thursday night week. It was the gem of the evening. It exhausted the question, and after it there was not and could not be anything new advanced. If anyone is anxious to understand what Mr. Mill appropriately called the "irony of the situation" of this borough franchise question, let him read that speech. But there was no perfrigid eloquence—no clever retorts—no ingenious rhetoric, and but little sarcasm—no loud declamation full of sound and fury, signifying nothing; and therefore these addle-headed critics would pronounce it a failure. "This style," said one, "is all very well for books, but it won't do in the House of Commons." But neither is this true. It will do. The fact is, it does do in the House of Commons; for no man is listened to with more profound attention than Mr. Mill. He has a weak voice; he has no oratorical or rhetorical art; he cannot, by mere emphasis of voice and action, make sonorous nonsense impressive, like Roebuck; he cannot dazzle and perplex the House as Disraeli can; he cannot, like Gladstone, carry you away by a torrent of impetuous eloquence; and yet he commands the deepest attention of the House. He cannot, then, be a failure.

TWO PICTURES.—LOOK ON THIS.

Last Session, on one special night, about this time of the year, we were in the House of Commons listening to an oration by the Right Hon. Robert Lowe upon the necessity, or rather non-necessity, of Reform. He was speaking eloquently, and even passionately; and, as he in his trenchant manner denounced the Reform Bill of Mr. Gladstone as so democratic that if it should pass all imaginable evils would flow in upon the State, how madly the Conservatives did cheer! It was, then, at this time the mind of the Conservative party that no Reform was wanted—no, none. But if there must be a Reform Bill, they would, at least, have no such dangerously democratic measure as that. "Perhaps we must admit a little more of the democratic element into the House, but not such a flood-tide as that. No, by all the powers! Shall we stand by patiently and see the sluice-gates opened, and all our sacred institutions overwhelmed by the democratic flood? That be far from us. Our mission is, as our venerable chief, Lord Derby, told us not long ago, to stem the tide of democracy! and this we will do, fighting to the last against this fellow Gladstone and his revolutionary bill." This, on that night in the year of grace 1886, clearly was the thought of the Conservative mind.

AND ON THIS.

Presto! The scene is changed, and now what have we before us? A Conservative party still, and still Disraeli at its head. But the party, you see, has changed sides. It was then in Opposition; it is now in power. Well, we have seen such changes before. Is there any further change? Yes, a much greater—greater *toto calo* by the whole breadth of the heavens. Last year Disraeli and his party opposed Gladstone's Reform Bill as too democratic. He is now proposing, and his party is supporting, a reform bill far more democratic. Last spring he and his party denounced a £7 franchise in boroughs as revolutionary. He is proposing now a puny household suffrage, and his party—that old Conservative party, whose mission it was only last year to stem the tide of democracy, and who frantically declared that a £7 rental suffrage would drown the State in a democratic flood—instead of rushing upon their chief, like Actæon's dogs, enthusiastically applaud. Wonderful change! How in the world was it brought about? Well, there are different opinions upon this point. Some say this party is spell-bound by the great magician at its head. But this is not an age of miracles. Others say it is all natural enough. It is heat—the parent of so many wonders, the source of life according to some philosophers—they say, that has produced this marvel. Last year they were "out in the cold;" this year they are in the warmth of power. But, however this may be, here is a wonderful picture, the like of which has never been, we venture to assert, exhibited in our senatorial chamber since the day when England saw for the first time burgesses sitting in Parliament. A large Conservative party changed into Radicals in twelve months! Why, it almost fulfils the prophecy that in the later times a nation will be born in a day. What does it portend? Ah! time alone can disclose that, after seeing such an unexpected wonder as this turn up. No political prophet, however sagacious, will attempt to forecast the future again. When a certain Jewish prophet told a famous captain that he was destined to perpetrate many wonderful crimes, he turned round upon the prophet and exclaimed, "Is thy servant a dog, that he should do this thing?" and if anybody had told anyone of these Conservative gentlemen last year, when they were madly cheering Lowe, as he denounced a £7 franchise, "You will support household suffrage next year," he would have expressed his disgust as strongly, though perhaps not in the words of Hæzæl.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE FENIAN TRIALS.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE wished to call attention to the Fenian trials now going on in Dublin. He urged very strongly that the Government should supply authentic reports of the whole of the proceedings.

The Earl of DERBY said that, with regard to the production of the evidence taken on the trials of the Fenian conspirators, Parliament could not act as a Court of Appeal, and he did not think it desirable either for the public interest generally or the interest of Ireland in particular, to lay before the world all the information in possession of Government with respect to the conspiracy, its foreign origin and connections, and the manner in which it had been brought under the notice of the Government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir J. PAKINGTON gave notice that on Monday next he would bring in a series of bills limiting the period of enlistment in the Army, establishing a reserve force, and otherwise carrying out the Ministerial scheme of Army reorganisation. The paper was crowded with notices for Committees of Supply on the Army estimates, but, in consequence of Sir J. Pakington postponing the vote for an increase of pay to the Army and militia, the House was allowed to go into Committee *pro forma*, and at once to resume without discussion. The orders of the day were also deferred, and at twenty minutes past five o'clock the House adjourned.

MONDAY, MAY 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE LUXEMBURG CONFERENCE.

The Earl of DERBY announced the close of the Conference on the Luxembourg affair, the conclusion of a treaty between the great Powers, and that the ratifications would be exchanged within a month. The terms of the treaty are, that the duchy shall, for all future time, be considered as neutral territory, acknowledged to be so by all the Powers, and placed under their direct collective guarantee; that the Prussian garrison shall be withdrawn, with all its stores and munitions of war, and the fortress be dismantled to such an extent as may be satisfactory to the King of Holland; that the works shall not be repaired; and that the Duchy of Limburg shall continue to belong to the Dutch King. The noble Earl, in reply to an inquiry of Lord Stanley of Alderley, wished it to be understood that Luxembourg would be placed under a collective and not a separate guarantee.

INCREASE OF THE EPISCOPATE.

Subsequently the House went into Committee on the bill for the increase of the episcopate. Several clauses were agreed to and amendments inserted, and the further consideration of the bill was postponed to Monday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MR. WALPOLE.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER announced to the House of Commons the resignation of Mr. Walpole, intimating that he would continue to

have a seat in the Cabinet without holding office. Mr. Disraeli passed a high eulogium on the late Home Secretary.

MEETINGS IN THE PARKS BILL.

Several members were anxious to know what was to be done with respect to the Meetings in Parks Bill; but the Chancellor of the Exchequer declined to give any information. When the successor of Mr. Walpole was in his place he would state the course that would be taken.

THE REFORM BILL FOR SCOTLAND.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER asked leave to introduce his Scotch Reform Bill, in the general construction of which he explained he had followed the model of the English bill. It was found impossible to establish any franchise in boroughs of a satisfactory nature, or that would give promise of a permanent character, except upon the principle of value. He had therefore adopted for Scotland the same principle as for England—namely, that the performance of public duty, in other words, the personal payment of rates accompanied by residence, should be the foundation for acquiring and enjoying public rights. With regard to counties, he proposed the occupation franchise should be reduced on the same scale and in the same manner as it was proposed to reduce it in England; and as in England, so in Scotland, the property franchise would be left untouched. Coming to what the right hon. gentleman described as the more novel and interesting subject of a distribution of seats, he explained that the scheme of the Government would add seven seats to the representation of Scotland. In apportioning these, he proposed the University of Edinburgh united with St. Andrews, and the other upon Glasgow University united with Aberdeen. The next proposal would be to take the three principal counties—Lanark, Ayr, and Aberdeen—and give them one additional member each; and as no county in Scotland had more than one member at present, these three counties would be divided, and each division have one member. He also proposed that the city of Glasgow should be divided—the portion north of the Clyde to be represented by two members, as at present, and the southern portion, augmented by certain suburbs, to be a separate burgh and have one seat conferred upon it. He further proposed to dissolve the two grouped burghs of Falkirk and Kilmarnock, and out of the burghs comprising them, with the addition of a number of new burghs consisting of towns with not less than 6000 inhabitants, make three groups, one of which, being a new one, should have a seat conferred upon it. In conclusion, the right hon. gentleman remarked that, although he could hardly expect that every portion of the scheme would give satisfaction, he had at least redeemed his pledge; and he hoped that the measure would be received with favour by the House.

Several members having expressed their opinions on the proposed bill, which were, on the whole, favourable to the measure, leave was given to bring in the bill.

THE ENGLISH REFORM BILL.

The House then went into Committee on the English Reform Bill. After some discussion, words were inserted at the instance of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, with a view of carrying out the policy as to compound householders for which the Government have obtained the support of the House.

Mr. McCULLAGH TORRENS moved to insert words enfranchising persons occupying separately, and as sole tenant for twelve months preceding the last day of July, lodgings which, unfurnished, would let at £10 a year, and who, having resided therein for the six months preceding the same date, have claimed to be placed on the register of electors at the next ensuing registration of voters.

To this Mr. GOLDNEY proposed, as an amendment, that the occupation should be of the same lodgings; that their letting value, unfurnished, should be £15 a year instead of £10, and that the residence should be twelve months instead of six.

The amendment of Mr. Goldney was opposed by Mr. GOSCHEN, who contended that a £15 lodger franchise would be to all intents and purposes a middle-class franchise, and would exclude the most deserving of the working men.

Sir R. KNIGHTLEY condemned the lodger franchise as opposed to the principle on which the Government said they had founded their bill, and declared that the Conservative party had better submit to defeat and go into Opposition than abandon that principle.

At the suggestion of Mr. Bright, Mr. Goldney expressed his willingness to withdraw his amendment if Mr. Torrens would substitute the words "£10 annual value" for letting value. The latter hon. gentleman agreeing, the Chancellor of the Exchequer assented on the part of the Government, and the clause was amended as proposed.

A division was subsequently taken on the question whether the period of residence should be six months instead of twelve months, as proposed by Mr. Torrens, and it resulted in twelve months being carried by 208 to 145. The proposal for a lodger franchise with the above-mentioned qualification was then agreed to.

TUESDAY, MAY 14.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

RITUALISM.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY moved the second reading of the Clerical Vestments Bill, the object of which is to declare what vestments are and what vestments are not legal. The noble Earl went into a lengthy review of the whole question, and insisted that something must be done to put down Ritualism.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY advocated delay until the Royal Commission should have reported. As the Earl of Shaftesbury declined to accede to this suggestion, his Grace moved that the debate be adjourned for two months. In the discussion which followed several bishops and lay peers took part.

Eventually the motion for adjournment was carried by sixty-one to forty-six votes.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ABYSSINIAN PRISONERS.

Lord STANLEY was questioned in reference to the Abyssinian prisoners. His Lordship had no good news. In effect, his statement was that the King refused to release the prisoners.

THE MALT TAX.

Colonel BARTELOTT moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the malt tax, and forthwith the House went into a long discussion on the subject. The Government, however, made no opposition to the motion, and it was agreed to.

EDUCATION IN RURAL DISTRICTS.

Mr. FAWCETT moved for leave to bring in a bill to compel the education of children under thirteen years age in the agricultural districts. Mr. Fawcett proposed to apply to these children provisions not unlike those contained in the Factory Acts.

Leave was given to bring in the bill.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL TITLES BILL.

Mr. MEVOY, who was to have moved the second reading of the Ecclesiastical Titles Act Repeal Bill, announced that the Government had promised to support a motion for a Select Committee to inquire into the subject. He should therefore postpone the second reading of the bill for a fortnight, and in the mean time move for a Select Committee.

Mr. Newdegate spoke, and Mr. Whalley very much wished to make an oration; but the Speaker insisted that he was out of order. Finally, he was silenced; and the bill was postponed.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House was engaged in a long discussion on the Sunday Trading Bill, the second reading of which was moved by Mr. T. HUGHES. The bill prohibited the sale of articles on Sundays, except such as are perishable and cooked, and confined the sale of those articles to certain hours in the morning. He remarked that the practice of Sunday trading had become intolerable in Lambeth, and nine tenths, at least, of those engaged in trade were anxious that the bill should pass.

The bill was opposed by Mr. FRESHFIELD, and described by him as a wolf in sheep's clothing. It might be considered, he said, a bill for licensing Sunday trading, and therefore he moved that it be read the second time that day six months.

A discussion took place, in which several hon. members joined, including Mr. Walpole and Mr. Henley. The objections were all based upon the same ground as that taken by Mr. Freshfield.

Eventually the bill was read the second time, it being understood that many amendments would be proposed in Committee.

Another discussion took place on the Grand Juries (Ireland) Bill, which was finally read the second time.

Colonel FRENCH postponed his Irish Reform Bill for three weeks, to give time for the introduction of the Government bill.

Several other measures were advanced a stage.

THURSDAY, MAY 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

OFFICE OF JUDGE IN THE ADMIRALTY, DIVORCE, AND PROBATE COURTS. On the order of the day for the House going into Committee on this bill, Lord GRANWORTH made some remarks in opposition to proceeding with the bill for the present.

The LORD CHANCELLOR traced the progress of this measure since he introduced it, and stated the circumstances under which he considered it imperative to press this bill that night. The great increase in the business of these courts, and the arrears of causes which presented themselves, were sufficient to show the necessity for increased judicial strength in the Admiralty, Probate, and Divorce Courts. The noble and learned Lord pointed out the failure of justice through the want of additional strength to dispose of the business of Assizes. He felt it necessary to divide the Northern Circuit; and in order to do this it would be necessary to appoint two new Judges, and to reconstitute the Court as proposed in this bill.

The House then went into Committee on the bill, and, several trifling amendments proposed by the Lord Chancellor having been agreed to, the House resumed, and the bill was read the third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
THE KENSINGTON ART-CATALOGUE.

In answer to Mr. Gregory, Lord R. MONTAGU said there was no actual agreement with the *Times* to print the Art-Catalogue. The plan of advertising in the *Times* was adopted as an experiment, and was sanctioned for only four issues, of which there had already been two issues, at a cost of £132.

REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

Mr. HENEGHE asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if it was still his intention to alter the Schedule (D) of the Representation of the People Bill, as far as regards the parts of Lindsay.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied in the negative, and stated that a Commission would be appointed to deal with the question of boundaries, of which Lord Eversley had consented to act as chairman.

THE SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

Mr. D. GRIFFITH asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it was his intention to be understood, with respect to the Scotch Reform Bill, that, in order to provide increased representation for Scotland, it was the intention of Government to add to the present number of the members of the House of Commons.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said it was not his intention to reduce the number of members either for England or Ireland, and he must, therefore, have confidence in the wisdom of Parliament. He might state that he should not take the Committee on the Reform Bill that night.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

In reply to Mr. Gregory, Lord R. MONTAGU said it was true that one specimen of every newspaper and periodical published in England had been sent to the Exhibition. Only a few bluebooks had been sent over as specimens. Two casts of the pulpit at Pisa had been taken, the cost being the same for one as for two, and one had been sent to the Exhibition.

NATIONAL DEBT BILL.

On the order for the second reading of this bill, Mr. H. B. SHERIDAN moved that "A further reduction of the duty on fire insurances, to which this House is already pledged, would be a better mode of disposing of a portion of the surplus of Ways and Means for the present year than the creation of terminable annuities proposed by the present bill."

After a lengthened discussion, Mr. Sheridan's amendment was lost by a majority of 162 against 88. The bill was then read the second time.

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THE LUXEMBURG SETTLEMENT.

THE troublesome and at one time really dangerous Luxembourg question has at last been settled. The Conference has done its work well, and with so much dispatch that diplomacy has suddenly regained all the credit which of late years, through a series of failures, it had lost. The fact is, diplomacy can act rapidly enough if there is really a demand for rapidity. When it procrastinates and invents excuses for delay it does so, in many cases, intentionally and because it is not at all clear to it what course it ought to take. Complications arise which render it necessary in the eyes of this and other countries that "something" should be done. What that something is no one can say; but diplomatists are set to work, and by the time a certain number of despatches have been interchanged, events, having been left to produce their natural results, somehow settle themselves. Diplomacy is sneered at as impotent, and delusive; but even here diplomacy has served a purpose, though not, it is true, a very lofty one. In the matter of Luxembourg, however, diplomacy has been simply triumphant. France and Prussia were unquestionably on the point of fighting; and now France and Prussia, if not the best friends in the world, are at least on what is called friendly terms. The settlement has been so well managed that, while each of the two disputants has had to make concessions to the other, neither has been compelled to take any step which can be considered in the least degree humiliating. Indeed, the susceptibilities both of France and of Prussia have been so well considered that at this moment there are Frenchmen who believe that France has got the best of the quarrel, and Prussians who hold that the decision of the Conference was favourable to Prussia. In fact, Prussia may flatter herself that she has played the part assigned to her in a recent caricature in *Punch*. The Emperor of the French had bargained with his friend the King of Holland for the proprietorship of Luxembourg, with "the right of shooting" in the immediate neighbourhood of the German frontier. But the King of Prussia had also claims upon the estate. He has absolutely forbidden its transfer, by sale or otherwise; and it is not to be transferred.

The French, on their side, may say that their Emperor had no particular desire to obtain possession of Luxembourg, and that all he really wanted was to turn the Prussians out of the Luxembourg fortress. According to this view, Napoleon III., in buying Luxembourg, wished only to raise the question of Prussia's right to it. That question he has raised to some effect, for it has been decided that Prussia's right to garrison Luxembourg ceased with the existence of the German Confederation, whose representative Prussia claimed to be. Thus, if France is not allowed to acquire Luxembourg, Prussia is not permitted to retain it. Each gains a negative advantage, because each receives a positive repulse.

It will be a fortunate thing if each of the two Powers chiefly concerned continues to view the decision of the Conference in the manner most agreeable to its own vanity; though it is quite possible that a reaction may shortly take place, and that Prussia will feel indignant at having been forced to withdraw her troops from a fortress which she had held for upwards of fifty years; while France, on reflection, will feel mortified at having been prevented from carrying out a purchase which, until Prussia stepped in, was generally looked

upon as a completed transaction. Short conferences, like short wars, are very desirable. The shorter they are the better—but always on condition that they do their work thoroughly. It is by no means certain that the struggle between Prussia and Austria came to an end with the termination of the "seven weeks' war;" and it is not yet proved that the quarrel between Prussia and France has been finally disposed of by the rapid labours of the London Conference. One thing is quite certain—the Luxemburg fortress is *not* to be destroyed. The guns will be removed, some of the advanced forts will, it is thought (though no official announcement has been made upon the subject) be blown up; and it appears that breaches are to be made at various points in the ramparts. This looks as though neither France nor Prussia really cared to see the Luxemburg fortress demolished. It looks as though each of those Powers still retained a lingering hope of possessing it. Luxemburg is strong by its natural position. Like the house of the good man in Scripture, it is built upon a rock; and the effect of making a few breaches in the ramparts will be not to lessen its impregnability in any absolute sense, but only to render it defenceless at particular points where the defences are artificial, and where, at short notice, they can be reconstructed. It would be a great pity, no doubt, to knock to pieces a fine old fortress which has been besieged in its time by the armies of almost every State in Europe; but when both France and Prussia look so tenderly upon it we cannot help fancying that neither of those Powers can quite have abandoned the idea of possessing it. In the meanwhile, the important part of the Luxemburg question having, for the present at least, been disposed of, it may be hoped that, in putting the decision of the Conference into execution, care will be taken to do no more injury than is absolutely inevitable to the interests of the Luxemburgers themselves. It was absurd to imagine, as some of the Luxemburgers seemed to imagine, that a garrison would be kept in the fortress merely for the benefit of the tradespeople in the town; but if Luxemburg is to be strictly neutralised, and if the Luxemburg fortress is to be evacuated and partially destroyed in the general interest of Europe, it is only fair that the interests of the Luxemburgers themselves should be taken into consideration, and that the unfortunate neutrals should, in some form or other, be indemnified.

It is rather painful, and is a sign of political immorality, that many of our newspapers should speak of the guarantee given, or rather renewed, in connection with the neutrality of Luxemburg, as an engagement that will not necessarily bind England. It is bad enough not to honour one's signature when the obligation which it represents becomes due; but to announce beforehand that it will not be respected is something unheard of until now. But, whatever may be thoughtlessly written on the subject, our guarantee is a very serious one. Fortunately, it does not increase our already existing liabilities in respect to Holland, of which, in a political sense, Luxemburg will now form an integral part.

CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY.—The Ministerial arrangements consequent upon the retirement of Mr. Walpole from the Home Office are not yet entirely completed. Mr. Walpole remains a member of the Cabinet, though without office; Mr. Gathorne Hardy will succeed Mr. Walpole at the Home Office as soon as the state of business in the House of Commons will admit of his absence during the interval necessary for his re-election; and Lord Devon will probably be appointed to the presidency of the Poor-Law Board, though without a seat in the Cabinet. No decision has yet been arrived at as to Lord Devon's successor in the chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster; but the name of Mr. Selwyn, Mr. Walpole's colleague in the representation of Cambridge University, has been mentioned in connection with the post.

WHITE HERRING FISHERY.—The Duke of Richmond has a bill before the House of Lords for removing the existing restrictions as to the description of net or mode of fishing for herrings on the coasts of Scotland, and allowing fishing for herrings and herring fry at all places on the coasts of Scotland in any manner of way and by means of any kind of net or apparatus, notwithstanding the Acts passed for the regulation of the British white herring fishery. The bill provides that the commissioners of the British white herring fishery may, with the sanction of the Treasury, make regulations for the preservation of order among the fishermen, and preventing their injuring each other's nets or the fish therein.

ROYAL LITERARY FUND.—The anniversary of the Royal Literary Fund was celebrated on Wednesday evening, at Willis's Rooms. The Dean of St. Paul's presided, and in the course of the proceedings he cursorily reviewed the present position of English literature. Although it is true, said he, that the Government returns contain no account of the export of thought, eloquence, and imagination, the demand for English books is so universal that our ships on reaching foreign ports are now inquired of not so much for cottons from Manchester or knives from Sheffield as for the nature of the consignments from Albemarle-street and Paternoster-row. If by Shakespeare and his followers we have not won a conquest we have certainly established an *entente cordiale* throughout the world. But all this shows how great is our army of writers, and since their originality is too often their misfortune as well as their glory, and since in no republic so much inequality exists in respect of worth and reward as in the republic of literature, the Royal Literary Fund forcibly appeals to all who appreciate the works of those whom it is designed to assist. As all grants are made in secret, donors need have no fear of being troubled with flattering acknowledgments or dedications, nor will they become the subject of a repetition of Johnson's sarcasm when he linked together want, the patron, and the gnat. Earl Stanhope spoke of the contrast presented by the fiction of to-day and the fiction of one hundred years ago, and congratulated the present generation on the comparative purity of the works of imagination provided for its entertainment. The report announced that forty-nine persons had been relieved by the fund during the year by an expenditure of £1605. The subscriptions announced at the close of the dinner amounted to £700, including a donation of 100 gs. from her Majesty.

ROSE CROP.—Mr. Blunt, the British Vice-Consul at Adrianople, in his report to the Foreign Office this year, gives an account of the rose-fields of the vilayet of Adrianople, extending over 12,000 or 14,000 acres, and supplying by far the most important source of wealth in the district. This is the season for picking the roses—from the latter part of April to the early part of June; and at sunrise the plains look like a vast garden, full of life and fragrance; with hundreds of Bulgarian boys and girls gathering the flowers into baskets and sacks, the air impregnated with the delicious scent, and the scene enlivened by songs, dancing, and music. It is estimated that the rose districts of Adrianople produced in the season of 1866 about 700,000 miscal of attar of roses (the miscal being $\frac{1}{16}$ drachm), the price averaging rather more than 3s. per miscal. If the weather is cool in spring, and there are copious falls of dew and occasional showers, the crops prosper, and an abundant yield of oil is secured. The season in 1866 was so favourable that eight oaks of petals (less than 23 lb.), and in some cases seven oaks, yielded a miscal of oil. If the weather is very hot and dry it takes double that quantity of petals. The culture of the rose does not entail much trouble or expense. Land is cheap and moderately taxed. In a favourable season a donum (forty paces square) well cultivated will produce 1000 oaks of petals, or 100 miscal of oil, valued at 1500 piasters; the expenses would be about 540 piasters—management of the land, 55; tithes, 150; picking, 75; extraction, 260—leaving a net profit of 960 piasters, or about £8 11s. An average crop generally gives about £5 per donum clear of all expenses. The oil is extracted from the petals by the ordinary process of distillation. The attar is bought up for foreign markets, to which it passes through Constantinople and Smyrna, where it is generally dispatched to undergo the process of adulteration with sandal-wood and other oils.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has addressed an autograph letter to Lady Llanover expressive of deep sympathy with her for the death of the late Lord Llanover.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has accepted the presidency of the Belgian Reception Committee, and subscribed 100 gs. to the fund.

THE INFANT DAUGHTER OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES was christened, at Marlborough House, on Friday week. The Archbishop of Canterbury performed the ceremony, and the child received the names of Victoria Louisa Alexandra Dagmar.

THE CEREMONY OF CHRISTENING the infant son of their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian will take place, on Tuesday next, in the private chapel, Windsor Castle, in the presence of her Majesty and the Royal family.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE KING OF BAVARIA has just been fixed for Oct. 12, the anniversary of that of his father, Maximilian I., in 1842, and of his grandfather, Louis I., in 1810.

MR. GEORGE PEABODY arrived on Sunday evening, by the Scotia, at Queenstown.

SIR GEORGE MARCORAN, late member of the Supreme Council of Justice in the Ionian Islands, has been conferred upon him by her Majesty the grand cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

PITS IX. completed his seventy-fifth year on Monday, having been born May 13, 1792. He will have occupied the pontifical throne twenty-one years on June 16 next.

THE BISHOPRIC OF GIBRALTAR is vacant, or is likely immediately to be vacant, by the resignation of the present Bishop, Dr. Trower.

SIR JOHN S. PAKINGTON, M.P. will this year distribute the prizes on board the Worcester, off Erith, on June 22.

SEVERAL DEATHS FROM SUNSTROKE occurred in London and its vicinity last week.

THE LATE MR. HENDERSON, of Park, near Glasgow, has left £64,750 to various religious and charitable institutions.

MR. WRIGHT, the United States Minister at Berlin, died suddenly last Saturday morning.

MR. EWART, M.P., has been prevented by the effects of a fall from attending in the House of Commons during the last ten days. He is now convalescent.

M. MORONAUX, a French merchant at Redon, recently sent to England 7000 dozen eggs in one week.

GENERAL LEE's review of his campaigns is so far advanced that terms have been made respecting its publication.

THE DARMSTADT SECOND CHAMBER have petitioned the Grand Duke of Hesse to consent to a reduction of his civil list by 60,000 fl., which were additionally granted him some years ago.

ORDERS have been given to set at liberty all the French prisoners languishing in Siberian wilds for participation in the last Polish rebellion.

THE GRAVE OF KARL BLIND, at Berlin, was found decorated with garlands and wreaths of flowers on the 7th inst., the anniversary of his attempt on the life of Count Bismarck.

THE WORKMEN in the Russian gun-factories are employed day and night in converting muzzle-loaders into breech-loaders.

THE BAR OF PARIS is organising, it is said, a grand banquet in honour of M. Jules Favre, on the occasion of his election to the French Academy.

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION have decided on granting a sum equal to 5000 francs in prizes to be shot for by the Belgian volunteers at Wimbledon.

THE EARL OF CHESTERFIELD has been confined to his room for some days by a severe illness, but his friends hope that he may soon be restored to health.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND, on Sunday last, notified to the Governor of Kilmalham Prison that the sentence of death passed on Patrick Doran, convicted at the Special Commission of high treason, had been commuted to penal servitude for life.

THE FESTIVAL OF THE SONS OF THE CLERGY was held, on Wednesday afternoon, in St. Paul's Cathedral. This is one of the most ancient of our charitable institutions, it having survived the vicissitudes of 213 years. The society affords assistance to 1300 impoverished relatives of deceased clergymen.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE FOR INFANTS, Upper Holloway, announce that her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland has kindly consented to lay the first stone of the new building, on a day which will shortly be announced.

SLAVERY is to be gradually abolished in Brazil. All future children of slaves are to be free, and subject only to a term of apprenticeship until they reach twenty years of age.

TWO ELEGANT LITTLE SWEDISH SCREW-STEAMERS were tried, last Saturday, on the Seine, starting from the Champ de Mars. They have been sent to the Exhibition as specimens of the boats in use at Stockholm.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE is reported to have again made its appearance in Cornwall, and great uneasiness prevails in consequence.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK announces that henceforward the committee of bankers will furnish weekly a statement of the amounts that have passed through the clearing-house on each day.

MR. J. S. MILL proposes on Tuesday next to introduce a bill for the establishment of municipal corporations in the several districts of the metropolis, and a bill for the establishment of a central federal municipality for the whole of London.

THE AMERICAN HATTERS call their trade "caputology;" and, instead of "Who's your hatter?" the correct thing to say now is, "Who's your caputologist?"

SIR BENJAMIN GUINNESS has been granted the hereditary right to bear supporters to the family arms—a distinction limited, except in special cases, to the peers of the realm. This favour is granted in recognition of his munificence in restoring St. Patrick's Cathedral.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS is actively pursuing its military preparations. The conscription of this year was intended to increase the effective of the Greek army by 30,000 men. Seven armour-plated vessels have been ordered in America and England.

MRS. GREEN, the last revolutionary pensioner in the United States, has just died at the age of one hundred years. She was the widow of a soldier of the War of American Independence. Six children, forty-six grandchildren, 141 great-grandchildren, and thirteen great-great-grandchildren survive her.

THE TAKE OF SALMON in the Ribble, between Preston and the sea, a few years ago, was ninety-six fish only, so low had the river been reduced by neglect, encroachments, and unlawful practices. Last year, as appears from the report of the conservators to the Fisheries Commission, 16,000 salmon were caught in the same portion of the river during the season.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has just granted the authorisation to a Franco-English company to establish from Brest a submarine cable to be landed at the island of St. Pierre, at the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and thence to Halifax, capital of Nova Scotia, and to the territory of the United States.

MRS. EYRE, wife of the ex-Governor of Jamaica, has been presented with a magnificent bracelet in gold and brilliants by the ladies of the neighbourhood of Market Drayton, accompanied by an illuminated roll of the names of those joining in the testimonial, and comprehending nearly every one of the families within visiting distance of Adley Hall.

A FARMER, near Shepton Mallett, while excavating for draining purposes in one of the by-lanes near the town, came upon a small earthen jar, which proved to contain several coins, chiefly Anglo-Gallic groats of Henry V., coined at Calais, and English groats of Edward IV., of the London Mint. The whole are in a fine state of preservation.

MR. CHARLES SHAW, Q.C., and Mr. Charles Kelly, Q.C., have been appointed to investigate the circumstances connected with Mr. Justice Keogh's observations as to the conduct of the Tyrone magistrates in a party processions case, and to report thereupon. The inquiry has been instituted in compliance with the application of the magistrates.

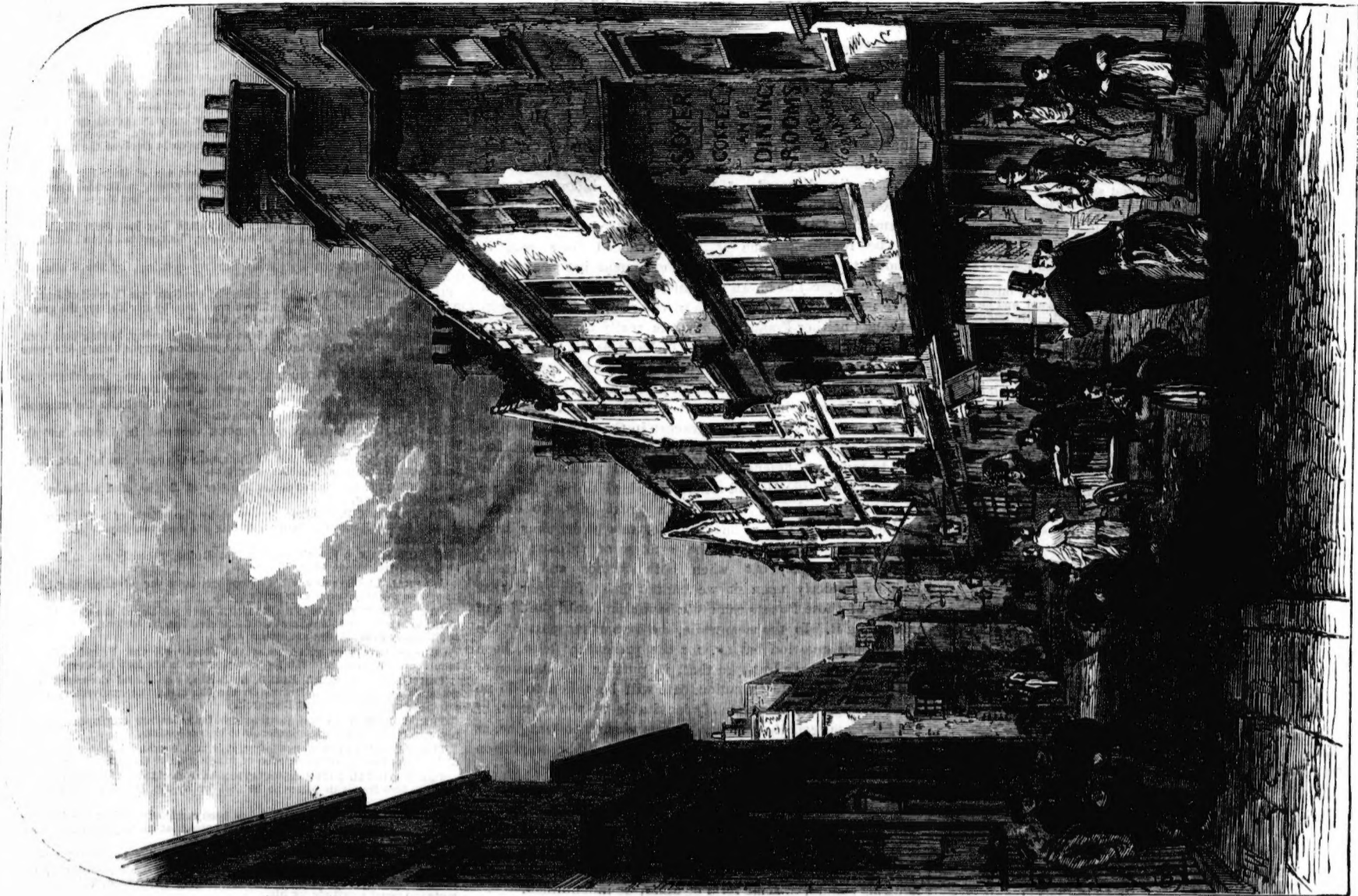
LAST YEAR 187,519 marriages were celebrated in England and Wales. The births in the year were 733,188, and the deaths 509,938. The number of males born was slightly in excess of the females, being 384,742 against 368,446. There were also 12,776 more deaths of males than females. By far the greater number of marriages was registered in the December quarter. The greatest number both of births and deaths was in the March quarter.

SIR RODERICK MURCHISON still clings to the belief in the possibility of Dr. Livingstone's safety, and mentions the fact that a merchant of Zanzibar had reported that he had seen a white man at the lake on whose shores the great traveller is supposed to have been killed. If the Zanzibar merchant speaks the truth, Sir Roderick thinks that that white man could have been no other than Dr. Livingstone.

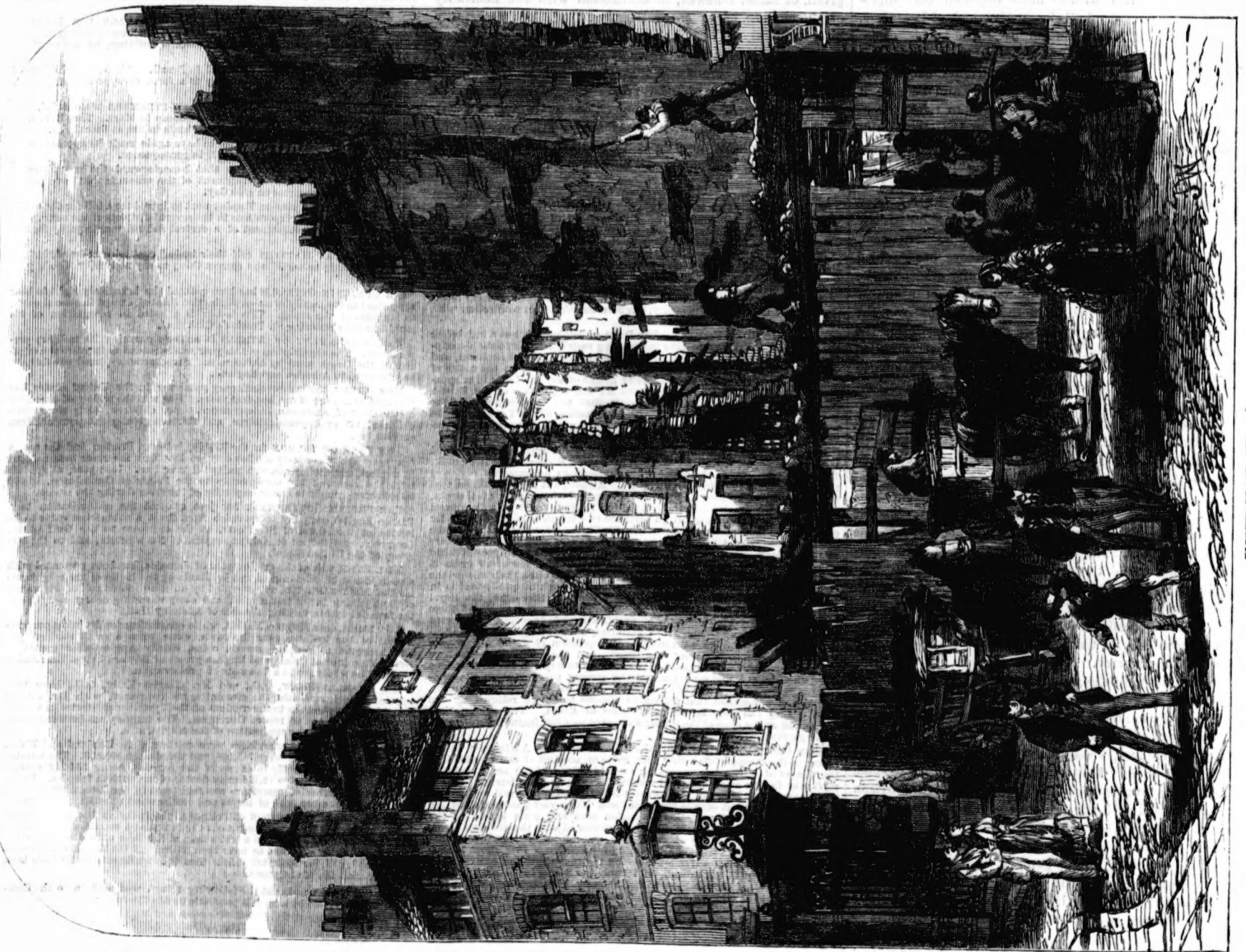
THE Owl is informed that the following return was sent in to the Commissioners of Police by a special constable on the 7th inst.:

Official Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing. Hyde Park, May 6, 1867.	
Killed	Time.
Wounded	Sir Richard Mayne's feelings.
Missing	The Home Secretary's head.

A MEETING OF WORKING MEN, summoned by the London Working Men's Association, to consider the present relations between the London master tailors and their men, was held in Trafalgar-square on Wednesday night. Mr. George Potter presided, and from 4000 to 5000 persons were present. Resolutions pledging the meeting to support the tailors on strike by moral and pecuniary aid were adopted.

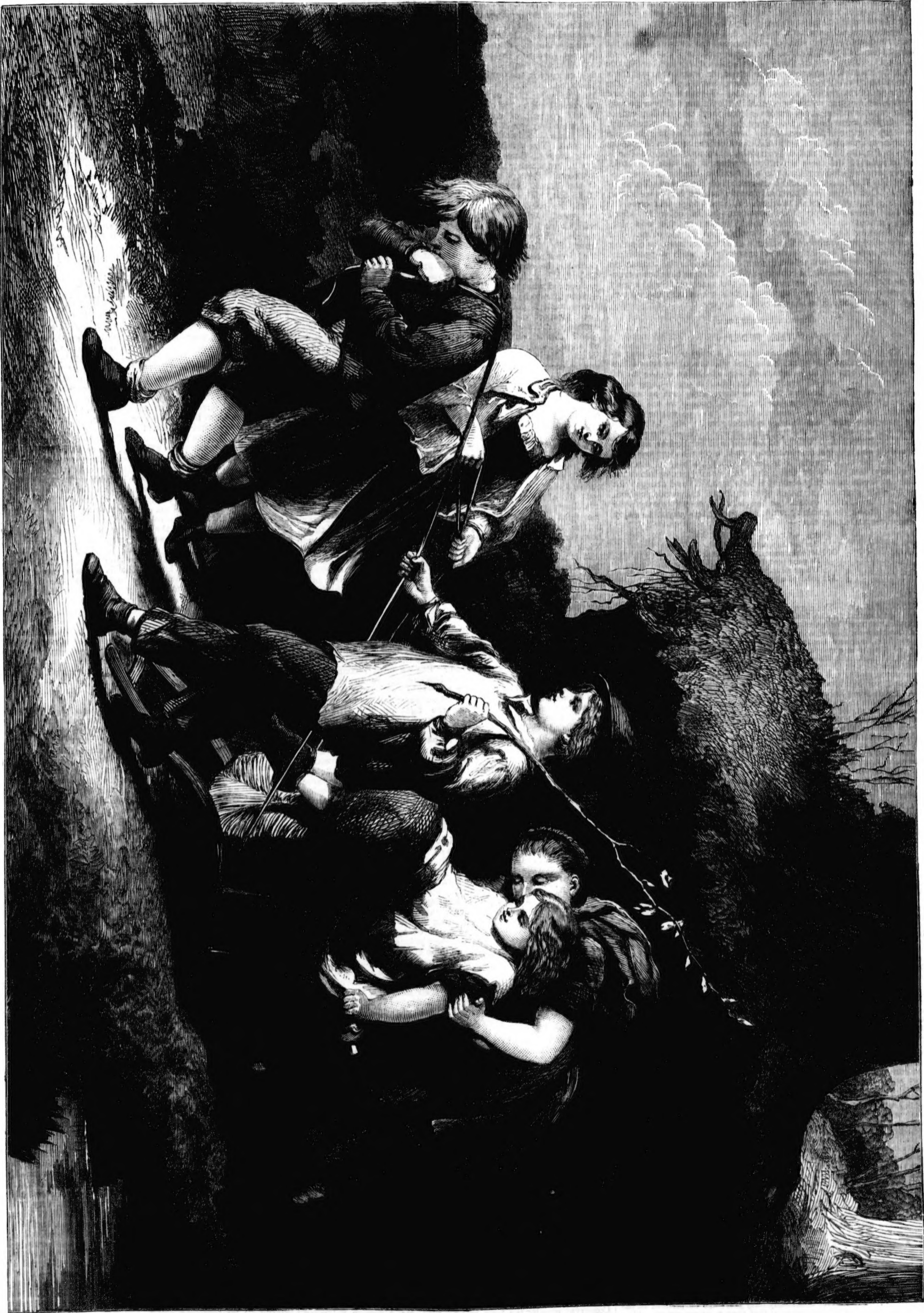


BELL-YARD, CARRY-STREET.



FICKETT-PLACE, STRAND.

PORTIONS OF THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED NEW LAW COURTS.



THE RIDE.—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY H. LE JEUNE, IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY'S EXHIBITION.)

PREPARING FOR THE NEW LAW COURTS.

THE work of demolishing the existing tenements in order to clear the site on which the new Palace of Justice is to be erected is being vigorously carried on; but a vast deal has to be done ere the ground can be cleared. The site, as our readers are aware, includes the block from Bell-yard, Temple Bar, on the east, to Pickett-place on the west, with a front in Carey-street and another in the Strand; and embraces the space on which stood, or stand, Old and New Boswell-courts, Crown-court, Star-court, Searle's place, &c. The place is now a perfect warren of close, ill-ventilated, dirty, and disreputable courts and alleys, inhabited by a mass of poor persons who, whatever temporary inconvenience they may suffer, cannot possibly be worse housed than they are at present, or were lately. A large number of the houses have been vacated, but in others the people still remain. The work of demolition was begun a few weeks ago in Pickett-place, and is progressing eastward. Temple Bar is to be removed, but there is a difficulty what to do with the fabric, some persons proposing that the old familiar barrier between the City and Westminster should be re-erected on the Thames Embankment. Other sites have been suggested; but, so far as we know, nothing has yet been determined. A foot-bridge will cross the Strand where Temple Bar now stands, in order to afford easy communication between the Temple on the one side, and the new Law Courts and Lincoln's Inn on the other. The new edifices will undoubtedly effect a great improvement in clearing away a mass of buildings most unseemly in such a prominent position, while they will afford immense facilities for the transaction of the legal business of the country, and at the same time be an ornament to the metropolis, which has not too many edifices of a truly handsome character. Our Engravings show the eastern and western boundaries of the site as they at present appear.

"THE RIDE."

THE subject of Mr. Le Jeune's picture, a copy of which we present to our readers this week, is one that will touch the sympathies of large numbers of those who visit the exhibition of the Royal Academy. We have all been "carriage-folk" in our younger days. Who of us cannot recollect the time when, with such an extemporised vehicle and with such an intelligent team as we see in this picture, he has felt a pleasure that the possession of a real carriage and real horses cannot give? Mr. Le Jeune's little folk are enjoying the sport immensely. There's "my lady," the rosy-cheeked lass, who occupies the seat of honour, and who is maintained in her somewhat risky position by the most loyal and most familiar of footmen. Her horses enjoy the ride as much as "my lady," and the only thing that can possibly complain is the chair, so unceremoniously converted into a vehicle and dragged not very gently over rather rough ground in an unnatural position. But let the old chair groan, the laughter and cheery voices of the children drown its creaking, and the youngsters ought to enjoy themselves while they can:—

Sing while you may,
For the happiest day
Of life is the season of youth and June,
So your poet declares,
Whose silvering hairs
Are touched already by autumn's moon.

ROYAL PALACES.—The charges for the maintenance and repair of these buildings amount, for the financial year 1867-8, to £41,495. Of this sum £17,651 is required for palaces in the personal occupation of her Majesty—viz., Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, with Adelaide Lodge in Windsor Home Park, Frogmore House, and the White Lodge in Richmond Park. A sum of £19,353 is required for the palaces of St. James, Kensington, and Hampton Court, and the establishments at Kew, Richmond, and Bushy, which are held under grace and favour; and the remainder of the vote is expended in repairs and fittings in apartments at St. James's Palace, which are partly occupied by the Queen and the Royal household.

A LESSON FOR LAZY WIVES.—A farmer living near Rochester, New York, was at work in the fields during one of the recent storms of rain, and went home in the evening, tired and drenched to the skin. His loving wife said: "My dear, it has been raining so hard that I could fetch no water, so I have not been able to make you any dinner. As you are wet through, I shall be obliged to you to fetch me a couple of buckets of water—you cannot get any wetter." The argument was striking; he therefore took two buckets and fetched some water from the well, which was at a considerable distance. On reaching his house he found his wife comfortably seated by the fire, when, lifting one bucket after another, he poured the contents over his kind and considerate partner. "Now, wife," said he, "you are as wet as I am, so you may as well fetch the water for yourself—you can't get any wetter!"

A NEAT LITTLE JOB.—The Science and Art Department at South Kensington has just given another proof of its wisdom. Its ways and works were explained and defended on Monday evening by Lord Robert Montagu, a champion exactly suited to such a cause. Having resolved to publish a complete catalogue of works relating to art, whether or not those works happened to be in the possession of the department, the authorities contracted for a series of whole-page advertisements in the *Times* at a reduced price. Our contemporary agreed to publish the catalogue, and to take the trouble of furnishing the department with proof-sheets. On all this we have nothing to say. It was, we suppose, a matter of business. But Lord Robert Montagu, flushed with the ardour of office and "crammed" even to plethora by his subordinates, was anxious to prove too much. The total expense of publication in the *Times*, he said, would be about £5000, spread over three years; "but of this amount £2400 would be returned to the public, because that would be the amount of advertisement duty." The very sound naturally called up Mr. Gladstone, who, "following out the calculation of the noble Lord," asked "what is the present amount of stamp duty upon advertisements?" Why, as everybody knows, except Lord Robert Montagu and the departmental chiefs especially concerned, the stamp duty on advertisements has been abolished for years. This, however, is not all; this by itself would not serve to illustrate the profundity of Lord Robert's ignorance. When the duty was in force, it amounted only to eightpence on each advertisement, no matter what its length. The "Plain cook wanted" would cost as much as "The fine-art catalogue;" and the duty on the whole transaction, taking the most liberal view of the calculation, would have amounted, not to £2400, but to £5 12s. 6d. Thus, Lord Robert Montagu quietly proceeds on the assumption that he shall get back half the money in virtue of a stamp duty that has been repealed for years; and, reasoning absurdly on fallacious premises, he makes the little slip between £5 12s. 6d. and £2400.—*Telegraph*.

THE PRINTERS' PENSION, ALMSHOUSE, AND ORPHAN ASYLUM CORPORATION.—This corporation, the objects of which are to relieve aged and infirm printers and widows of printers by granting them annual pensions, the establishing and maintaining permanent residences for aged and infirm printers and widows of printers, and the establishing of schools for the education and maintenance of orphan children of printers, is the result of gradual and steady perseverance. Some thirty-nine years ago a few journeymen printers met together and determined upon founding a society for the relief of members of their own body when age and infirmity had put it beyond their power to earn a livelihood for themselves. The idea met with more support than usually attends the conception of benevolent projects, until at the present time the corporation may fairly be described as being in a flourishing condition. By no means the least noteworthy circumstance in connection with this corporation is that, out of the amount subscribed towards the objects for which it is intended, £500 are annually contributed by journeyman printers. The list of this year shows sixty-five subscriptions of £2 2s. each from journeymen printers towards the first objects of the corporation, while seven others subscribe similar amounts in support of the asylum. The almshouses have only recently been erected; and it is proposed, though nothing has as yet been done, to establish an orphan asylum. At the present moment nearly £1000 are paid annually in the form of pensions, while accommodation is afforded at the almshouses at Wood-green, Tottenham, for aged and infirm printers and widows. To meet the demands which are necessitated by this extended scheme of benevolence, appeals have to be made to the public for assistance, and the annual dinner was held, on Wednesday evening, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. The chair was occupied by Earl Russell, who, in proposing the toast of the evening, took occasion to refer to the fact that nearly forty years ago he presided at the inaugural dinner of the corporation, at that time a simple society. After commenting upon the progress that the society had made, and the advantage that the cultivation of prudent habits was likely to confer upon the workmen of the metropolis, his Lordship remarked that the corporation had provided almshouses for twelve persons, and that pensions were at the present moment granted to seventy-seven decayed printers or widows of printers. His Lordship alluded to the arduous labour which compositors and printers encountered in the performance of their duties, and urged upon those present the necessity of supporting an institution which tended so much to the promotion of provident habits—an appeal which was liberally responded to.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

EVERYBODY must see that the Cabinet is weak. The Chancellor of the Exchequer knows this, and rumour says that he is trying to strengthen it. The secession of General Peel and Lord Cranbourne was a serious loss of prestige, especially that of the General. He is a great favourite in the House, popular in the Army, a very able administrator; and his secession was a very serious loss. Now there is a vacancy in the Cabinet; no, not exactly in the Cabinet; but a place can be made. The Duchy of Lancaster is vacant; and rumour says that overtures have been made to General Peel to come back to his old place at the War Office. If the General should consent, of course there must be some further changes; but what they would be rumour sayeth not. And why should not the General consent? "The Reform Bill is wellnigh settled, General. You will have no responsibility now. You have entered your protest. Come back, then, to your old berth." So sings the syren; but whether the General will listen to her voice is at present unknown. Perhaps he will wait until the bill shall have got clear of the House. But, though the General threw up his office by way of protest, his convictions cannot be overpoweringly strong, for, albeit he spoke the other night strongly against the measure, he voted with the Government. It is said, also, that the wily Chancellor of the Exchequer has been fishing in Liberal waters. He has been, rumour asserts, tickling that erratic trout, Sir Robert Peel, in the hope of getting him into the Government net. Though what prestige, or anything else desirable, he can add to the Government is not very clear. Sir Robert, I hear, has listened to the voice of the charmer, but has not yet decided what to do. He has to calculate chances. It is a great honour thus to be wooed; but there is much to be considered. This Government is going with the wind now, and there seems to be a good prospect of a favourable voyage before it; but there are certainly rocks ahead, and if it should go to pieces, what then? *Nulla vestigia retrorum*—there will be no retracing of steps; and, perhaps, he may have some qualms about joining his father's bitterest enemy. Sir Robert is wild, erratic, eccentric, and there is no calculating what such people may do; but I cannot help thinking that he will pause before he cuts himself adrift from his old friends, and rank himself with the Conservatives, with Disraeli at their head. But no one can tell. Sir Robert was passed over when the last Liberal Government was formed, and no doubt his pride was mortified, and mortified pride often leads men to do strange things.

It is a common remark in society that the Reform Bill is safe now. But be it remembered that the 34th clause—the clause settling the compound-householder question—is still ahead; and until that question be finally settled in favour of the Government, the bill cannot be said to be safe. Mr. Disraeli proposes, as soon as clause 3 shall be passed, to take this dreaded 34th. He wishes to get "out of his misery," as boys standing trembling on the brink of a river say, and means "to take a header." What the result of the fight on this clause will be no one can foretell, such is the confused state of parties in the House. One thing, however, is certain—if the Government be defeated, it will break up or dissolve. Its whips are busily whispering about that it will positively dissolve, and this threat of dissolution is in the House exceedingly potent; and no wonder; for a general election would empty at least 150 saddles. "And who knows but I may be one of the unhorsed?" I am told that the great chief himself looks with some anxiety to the fight on this clause. My own opinion is that the Government will win; but I should not be surprised if it were to be defeated. You may possibly say that this question was mooted by Gladstone on the 12th of April; and as he was defeated in his attempt to place the compound householders on a level with the householders who pay in person, how can you imagine that any future attempt in the same direction will succeed? But we must remember that Gladstone's amendment was preliminary to another to substitute a fixed ratable qualification of £5 for household suffrage, and the fight was between advocates of household suffrage and the advocates of the "hard-and-fast line." But the fight on the 34th clause will be between the friends of household suffrage pure and simple and the advocates of the Government proposal—to wit, household suffrage clogged, in case of the compound householders, with all the difficulties in getting upon the register about which so much has been said. This, then, is entirely a new question. Many of the Radicals voted with the Government on April 12; but Disraeli cannot hope to get a single Radical vote on this 34th clause. But I think he will win; and then he will have a fair, open sea before him, and, in all probability, a prosperous voyage. It is said that Disraeli must take his stand upon this clause, or the Cabinet would break up; and, moreover, if this were not so, the Lords would not pass his bill.

Much boasting has been indulged in of late about the strength of Conservatism, and of the numbers of working men who adhere to that party; but, as I have before pointed out in your columns, who ever hears of Conservative meetings openly held, or, in truth, of Conservative gatherings of any sort, except at expensive banquets, which working men cannot possibly attend—and pay their share of the reckoning? Indeed, public meetings, in any sense of the word, are never ventured upon by Conservatives, for this very sufficient reason, that at no "public" meeting would their notions have a chance of being adopted. The work of agents, who are commissioned to get up memorials and deputations and make a show of Conservative opinion is therefore done at dinners and in hole-and-corner gatherings, of which no one ever hears in the locality in which they are alleged to have been held. The Leaguers, at all events, act more fairly in this respect, for, though somewhat dictatorial in their manner of conducting their meetings, they yet hold these openly, they invite the attendance of all, they submit resolutions, and were they in a minority could—and certainly would—be outvoted. They are not outvoted—rarely, in fact, are ever interfered with; and therefore it is impossible to resist the conclusion that they are in an overwhelming majority. I wish Conservatives would submit their opinions and numbers to a similar ordeal. But this they take very good care not to do. It is seldom that an opportunity is afforded of testing the strength of Conservative associations; but when we do get a chance, the facts are most instructive. For instance, at a deputation which waited upon Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli the other day, two gentlemen who had committed the sin, condemned in the Bard-King of old, of "numbering their people," were guilty of the still more flagrant blunder—in a party point of view—of making the numbers of their followers public. One of these gentlemen came from Birmingham, and boasted that he represented 600 inhabitants of that town. Now, Birmingham has 296,076 inhabitants, 14,371 of whom are registered electors; and the Conservatives there must number 600! Verily, Messrs. Bright and Scholefield had better look to their seats, for they must be in "a parlous state" from so mighty a host of opponents. Again, the other gentleman referred to hailed from Greenwich; and he glorified himself on the fact that 1500 good Conservatives had sent him to speak for them. In the borough of Greenwich there are 139,436 inhabitants and 8851 electors; so that the 1500 Conservatives are in a very miserable minority indeed. It would appear from these figures that Conservatism is much stronger in Greenwich than in Birmingham; but this is easily accounted for. Greenwich includes the Royal dockyard and arsenal at Woolwich; and as the employes in Government establishments are generally of the politics of the party in power, and as the Tories are now in, of course the bulk of the employes at Woolwich are Conservatives—for the time being. Still, Mr. Alderman Salomons and Sir Charles Bright need be in little fear of the forces that muster against them at dinners at the Ship or the Trafalgar. Of course, large numbers of working men can afford to pay for banquets at those establishments! These are specimens of the strength of Conservative associations, and, could we test them, doubtless other places would afford similar illustrations. That there are Conservatives in the country, and a respectable number in some quarters, I do not wish to deny; and specimens of Conservative working men may even be found occasionally; but to say that they are anything but a

wretched minority, or that they have any right to speak for the mass of the population, is simply ridiculous, and only provokes derision when the attempt to do so is made.

An evening paper of Wednesday last reported Mr. Thomas Hughes as saying that a statute of Henry VI. "recited that fairs and markets had been held on Sundays, 'to the abuse of their souls,' and it enacted that no more fairs or markets should be held on the Sunday except for four Sundays in harvest time." Explain unto us, O Tom Brown! what you mean. Was it the "souls" of the "fairs and markets" or of the "Sundays" that were abused in the days of the pious but unfortunate Henry? If the reporter be to blame for this singular blunder, the member for Lambeth ought to bring an action for damage to his literary reputation. He would certainly have a much better case than that of Mr. Rigby Wason against the newspapers for accurately reporting speeches in Parliament which he calls slanderous. I may note another curious blunder made by an eminent man this week. At a meeting of the council of London University, Dr. Storrar, the chairman, stated that the Scotch Universities were about to receive two more representatives in Parliament, and on that fact founded a claim for two members being assigned to his University instead of one. Now, as the Scotch Universities have at present no representatives in Parliament, it is difficult to understand how they can receive two more. Dr. Storrar further muddled the matter by saying that Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and Glasgow and St. Andrew's, were to be coupled in choosing a member; whereas Mr. Disraeli's proposal is just the reverse—Edinburgh and St. Andrew's, and Glasgow and Aberdeen, are to be associated. When such distinguished men make slips like these we common erring mortals may take comfort.

It seems that the Thames is again being made pestiferous by the number of carcasses of dogs, killed to escape the new tax, that are floating in its waters. We are thus only getting rid of one nuisance at the expense of creating another. The purity of the Thames is a matter of the utmost importance to residents in London, and it is to be hoped that measures will be taken to abate this new evil ere it becomes positively intolerable, as it is likely to do when hot weather sets in again. By-the-by, talking of nuisances, I would suggest that Mr. Gathorne Hardy might usefully inaugurate his reign at the Home Office by making it necessary to take out—and pay for—a license to keep cats. If such a law were passed, we should be delivered from a portion, at least, of the caterwauling that now makes night hideous all over London. Just think what a relief to quiet people that would be!

I wish that a new missionary effort could be made on behalf of our merchant seamen—an effort to induce them to take up their abode in the Sailors' Home whenever they come ashore, for I am persuaded this institution is calculated to check that deterioration in our mercantile marine service of which we hear so much. Very few of your readers are acquainted with the vicinity of Ratcliffe-highway, and the dens where the tigers of Tiger-bay crouch, waiting for Jack; and I am afraid they are equally unacquainted with the Home in Well-street, near the London Docks, where Jack may find a refuge from the land-sharks who are always ready to shove up their big jaws to snap at him when he comes into "the pool." The annual meeting of the supporters of this home was held there on Thursday afternoon, and it is satisfactory to know that it is well appreciated; but it wants supporting, and more institutions like it are needed. Sir William Bowles, K.C.B., supports the claims both of this and of the Destitute Sailors' Asylum with admirable (shall I say with Admiral?) spirit, but they need public recognition. Considering that the merchant seamen are still excluded from Greenwich Hospital, to the overgrown funds of which they have so long contributed, it is a little hard that the old and disabled sailors of our commercial fleet should have to seek an asylum supported even partly by voluntary contributions amongst themselves; but they need not on that account be left to perish, and I know of few charities which have greater claims.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.
THE MAGAZINES.

A new, or, at all events, a very recent comer, which must have a word of notice, is the *People's Magazine*, which is issued under the sanction of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. A good little serial, full of quiet writing, carefully grounded. Quietness and guardedness are the characteristics of the stories, the sketches, and the essays; and, as usual in serious writings for popular use, the guardedness is pushed to a length which is not only excessive but ridiculous. It is simply absurd for an editor to put to an article which names Hume, Froude, and Gibbon a footnote for the purpose of informing the reader that their religious opinions are deprecated. It is astonishing that writers of a certain class will go on making themselves laughed at in this way. In the present case, the fun is not lessened by the fact that in another paper the reader is gravely told that Chaucer's "Merchant's Tale" ("January and May") is "sprightly and pleasant;" and this close by a reference to "The Wife of Bath," "The Merchant's Tale" is no doubt "sprightly" enough; but that is hardly a sufficient account of it in a periodical published by the "S. P. C. K." However, the contents of this magazine are good, and just what I find, by actual experiment, a large public like. The article on George Morland does him no more than justice, and it is welcome, if only as an act of justice.

The *Contemporary* contains one or two very noticeable papers; half the number is thoroughly interesting and good. Even the dull article on "The Reign of Law" is relieved by a piece of pleasantry, in which the author says:—"Marriage, in our society, is supposed to be wholly a matter of sentiment. The highest and holiest bond between husband and wife is placed in sensibility of a certain kind." For this stroke of fun we shall all forgive the writer much; I only hope the Duke of Argyll will forgive him! But, turning to page 79, one would be glad to know why the "Reign of Law in the Realm of Mind" is "an unsatisfactory subject." A subject may be unsatisfactorily handled; but that is another thing. The author of the article on "The Condition of Women in France" cannot find the word *muguet* "in several dictionaries," and thinks it is "a local word." I can only say that I instantly found it myself in three French dictionaries—French-Greek, French-German, and French-English; and, though the meaning given in each is botanical, and not pathological, I venture to think that the word, applied to a sucking baby, means what nurses call the thrush and doctors *aphtha*.

Mr. John Morley is evidently taking such pains with the *Fortnightly* that it appears somewhat hard to say what, perhaps, after all is not true to everybody—namely, that the May number is a little dull. This is a charge that can seldom be brought against the *Revue des Deux Mondes*; and though we cannot get French vivacity to order, it is conceivable that the *Fortnightly* might in every number be enlivened by a pleasant, sketchy paper, which should yet be informing and should not lower the dignity of the periodical. In the present number we have a short notice of a book about the works and ways of artisans. Now, this subject might very well have yielded an article which was quite amusing, as well as thoughtful. "The White Rose" is certainly a little vulgar; and, excellent as the *Fortnightly* is, it wants brightening in quite a different way.

Scientific periodicals are so numerous that one scarcely knows what to do with them; they cannot all be noticed at once. The *Popular Science Review* holds its own as a well-edited and comprehensive half-crown quarterly, and it has latterly improved in its illustrations. In the present number there are five separate plates, one of them coloured. The *Intellectual Observer* is a monthly magazine which is cheaper, but, in respect of its illustrations, inferior to no magazine going, I think. The short article in the present number on Mr. William White's "Swedenborg" is not more deficient in appreciation on the mystical side than might be expected, and is in other respects admirable.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The performance in augmentation of the fund collected for the widow and family of the late Mr. Bennett was as complete and unqualified a success as it deserved to be. The Strand was almost impassable for about an hour on Saturday afternoon last, owing to

the throng of vehicles which were making their way to the ADELPHI Theatre. Mr. Burnand's "Cox and Box," an operatised version of "Box and Cox," or rather "Box and Cox" interpolated with songs written by Mr. Burnand and set to music by Mr. Sullivan, commenced the entertainment. Mr. Burnand has a certain happy vein of excellent tomfoolery which is almost peculiar to himself; and in this happy vein the idea of turning "Box and Cox" into an operetta was conceived and executed. Mr. Sullivan's music is delightful; but I fancy that it was, in places, rather "over the heads" of an audience who would come to laugh at an operatised farce. But in many parts it was conceived in the spirit of the purest fun, and Mr. Burnand and Mr. Sullivan may each be congratulated on his good fortune in having found so congenial a collaborator. The piece was played by Mr. Du Maurier, the well-known *Punch* artist; Mr. Quintin, a rather famous amateur; and Mr. Blunt, another amateur of remarkable promise. Mr. Blunt's Sergeant Bouncer was an admirable piece of burlesque; his make-up would not have disgraced Mr. Hare, and his performance throughout was to all appearance that of an old actor. Mr. Quintin sang and played with much quiet fun; and Mr. Du Maurier, a rather nervous actor, proved himself to be an excellent vocalist. I sincerely trust that this amusing bagatelle may before long find its way to the professional stage. The Moray Minstrels then sang some glees and madrigals, which were exquisitely given; the effect of them would have been improved had the selections been fewer in number. Mr. Shirley Brooks then spoke an address, which was in no way a remarkable performance. Mr. Tom Taylor's capital drama, "A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing," followed, with Miss Kate Terry in Mrs. Stirling's part, supported by Messrs. Tom Taylor, Mark Lemon, Burnand, Shirley Brooks, Tenniel, Silver, Horace Mayhew, and Pritchett—all members of the *Punch* staff. Regarded from a histrionic point of view, the performance of these gentlemen was not remarkable; but Mr. Mark Lemon and Mr. Burnand certainly carried off the palm, such as it was. The performance concluded with Offenbach's "Deux Aveugles," with Mr. Harold Power, the ex-entertainer, and Mr. Du Maurier, in the characters of the two impostors. Mr. Du Maurier's performance in this piece was an immense improvement on his Box; and Mr. Harold Power evinced a full appreciation of the fun of his part. The singing in the case of both these gentlemen was excellent. The performance was, as I have said, a complete success, and several hundred pounds must have been realised. It is, I believe, in contemplation to repeat this performance in aid of another charity. May I suggest the advisability, in that case, of cutting down the songs of the Moray Minstrels by at least one half? They sang charmingly; but it is possible to have too much of a good thing.

"Henry Dunbar" was revived at the Adelphi on Monday last, in order to afford Mr. Neville and Miss Kate Terry an opportunity of appearing on the Adelphi stage in parts which they had played with great success at the Olympic. It afforded these excellent artists the opportunity they required, and when that is said in its favour, all is said that the subjects admits of. The piece was in almost every other respect carelessly played, and still more carelessly placed upon the stage.

A new amphitheatre is to be opened in High Holborn on the 25th inst. A promising list of performers has been published, and the venture is likely to prove successful, especially as there is no equestrian establishment, properly so called, now existing in London.

CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE originated in a meeting held at St James's Hall, at the beginning of last Session, to consider cattle-plague regulations. There are now twenty of these chambers, with 4500 members, already formed in the leading agricultural counties, and eight more are in course of formation. These chambers send deputies to a central chamber, which meets periodically in London to discuss with members of Parliament the various questions affecting the agricultural interest which come before the House of Commons. At the last meeting it was decided to admit peers and members of Parliament as members, on the payment of their subscription, at any meeting.

THE REFORM BILL AND THE COUNTRY.—It would be quite impracticable to give in these columns even a portion of the resolutions which have been passed at public meetings during the last few weeks on the subject of the Reform Bill. From every part of the United Kingdom—from the extreme north of Scotland to Cornwall and Kent—an immense array of popular resolutions condemnatory of the Government Bill have been received. Whatever may be the differences of opinion respecting its abstract merits, it is impossible to doubt the general popular hostility to it. In every considerable town, in every county, open meetings have condemned the Government project most decisively. In many instances, if not in all, we find expressions of confidence in Mr. Gladstone; and there is something particularly impressive in the reason universally assigned for this confidence—the honesty avowedly ascribed to the statesman; while it is the dishonesty of the bill which provokes indignation even more than its defects and mischievous tendencies. But it is not the personal aspect of the subject which engages our attention; the value of these demonstrations lies in the proof of the degree to which public opinion is alive to the principal subject of the day, and of the very general agreement on the main principles. It is to be remembered, also, that these resolutions have not been arranged in concert—that the parties to them are utter strangers to each other, and belong to widely different interests and classes.

THE HYDRAULIC VESSEL NAUTILUS.—On Saturday last a large party of noblemen and gentlemen, with Mr. Butven, the patentee, assembled on board this vessel to witness the results of the various experiments made in stopping, going ahead or astern, and turning. In addition to the trials made on previous occasions, some very interesting experiments were made to show the new and remarkable features of this system. For instance, it was proved that the movements of the vessel do not depend solely on communication with the engineer, whose office is simply to drive the vessel at full speed; but the control of the propelling power is left entirely with an officer on the bridge or on the deck. The nozzle works as well out of water as when immersed—a fact hitherto unintelligible to many of our most eminent engineers; consequently there is no loss of power in seaway when the ship is rolling, nor do the engines undergo the extreme strain which is involved when the screw or paddle is out of water in ships built according to the ordinary plan. Perhaps, however, the most notable experiment of the day was that which proved that the ship could be stopped in a time which would be inconceivably short to those who consider that no improvement on the old system is possible or practicable. A piece of wood was thrown out forward, and an order given to reverse the nozzles. This having been done, the vessel was brought to a standstill and was moving astern before the log had moved more than half her length, and that though she was backed against a strong ebb tide. By the condition to which we have referred—that no difference is made in the motion of the ship by the nozzle being out of the water—a great advantage will be gained by a diminution of the weight of the stern of vessels constructed on this principle as compared with those built on the plan at present received. Besides, if any damage be done to the rudder, its functions can be replaced by the actions of the nozzles. On arriving at the dockyard, Woolwich, the party proceeded to view the Waterwitch, the new iron-clad boat which is being fitted up by the Government on the hydraulic principle.

HALL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.—Her Majesty the Queen will lay the first stone of the new Hall of Arts and Sciences, which is to be erected at South Kensington, on the 26th inst. The Queen will leave the Paddington station of the Great Western Railway attended by a cavalry escort, and, passing through Hyde Park, will arrive at 11.30 o'clock at the site of the hall, opposite the memorial to the Prince Consort in Hyde Park, where a guard of honour will be drawn up and receive her Majesty with a Royal salute. Her Majesty, on alighting from the carriage, will be received at the north end of the tent covering the site of the hall by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the chairman of the provisional committee, with the other members of the committee, and be conducted to the spot where the stone will be laid. During the procession the military band will play. Upon arrival at the spot the National Anthem will be sung. The Prince of Wales, after a short address from himself, will hand to her Majesty the report of the provisional committee recording the undertaking, and the measures taken to carry it into effect. The Earl of Derby will hand to the Queen the coins and inscription, and Earl Granville the glass vessel in which they are to be inclosed. Her Majesty will then place them in the vessel. Mr. Lucas, the builder, will hand to the Queen the trowel, and Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, the director of the works, will hand the line and plummet, and assist her Majesty in placing the glass vessel in the stone. During this operation, and at the lowering of the stone into its place, a flourish of trumpets will be given and a Royal salute fired in Hyde Park. The Archbishop of Canterbury will offer up a short prayer. The "Invocazione all' Armonia," the composition of the late Prince Consort, will be given, under the direction of Mr. Costa, and at its conclusion the National Anthem will be sung. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the provisional committee will conduct the Queen through the south-east exit from the tent to the east door of the conservatory of the Royal Horticultural Society, where her Majesty will be received by the council of that society, and be conducted by the north-western terrace of the gardens to her carriage at the Prince's entrance in Albert-road. The council of the society have announced a floral fête for the occasion, when it is expected that the chief exhibitors will be well represented.

Literature.

Guesses at Truth. By TWO BROTHERS. London: Macmillan, and Co.

This is a handsome reprint of a book which was practically scarce, and which may be recommended not only without reserve, but with warmth and emphasis. Some of our contemporaries have thought it necessary, in noticing it, to challenge some of the "guesses," and even to disparage the general tone of the thinking; but it was a needless thing to do. Julius Hare, in the address to the reader, expressly, and with words of regret, tells us that the guesses are "the fruits of much idleness;" that his own contributions are little more than "glimmerings" or "dreams of thought;" and that not a word in them is to be taken on trust. Thus the reader is sufficiently warned by the noble candour of one of the authors that the part assumed by them is that of interlocutors in talk, who contribute words to be passed round and criticised, not words of a teacher, to be taken as authoritative. In this little preface, and in the original dedication to Wordsworth, the keynote of the book is sufficiently struck for him who has an ear to listen.

The new memoir by Mr. Plumptre—for, though that gentleman only gives his initials, there can, we think, be no indecency in mentioning a name which all the world will recognise—is delightful. Of course, it has the invariable characteristics of its author's happy manner; but it lets us into some of the secrets of his mental and moral structure too. These, however we may love and admire them, are beyond the pale of criticism.

To entirely uninformed readers the book may be described as Coleridgean. The criticism seems to us to be the best, we mean the least debatable, part of it; but it is nearly all lofty and beautiful in tone. A little pedagogic, and a good deal wrong-headed now and then; but, in short, with all the good qualities, and all the drawbacks which can be predicted at a glance from the two portraits which adorn (*really adorn*) the volume—a book to have and to be the better for.

A reference made by Mr. Plumptre to Mr. Julius Hare's dislike of "Mr. Locke" gives us an opportunity of observing that the *Saturday Review*, in an anonymous article of known authorship, has lately called attention to the possibility that the more modern forms of the doctrine of innate ideas may be got within the terms of Locke's "Ideas of Reflection." This is a matter upon which we had long ago made up our own mind; but turning over a boy's book the other day, by Dr. Angus, Examiner in English Literature at University College, we found Locke classified as an idealist. He may have been so classified elsewhere, for what we know; but, at all events, we think a little more attention would modify a great many people's "dislike" of "Mr. Locke."

Some reference is made by the editor to the number of Mr. Hare's books. We happen to have bought at a stall, for fourpence, some years ago, a book which had evidently formed part of his library, being stamped with his name and crest. The book is entitled, "Wilhelm Meister's Wanderjahre," and the imprint is "Quedlinburg und Leipzig, 1821, bei Gottfried Basse." The book is an evangelical (!) continuation of "Wilhelm Meister." We have been told Goethe refers to it in some epigram or other, but we cannot find the place.

The Clergy and the Pulpit in their Relations to the People. By M. L'ABBÉ ISIDORE MULLOIS. Translated by GEORGE PERCY BADGER. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is the first of a series of volumes, by the Abbé Mullois (Chaplain to the Emperor Napoleon), designed especially for the benefit of the clergy. Like most really good things, it is as good in one country as in another; and the quarrelsome establishments and sects of England would do well to take an occasional leaf from the Frenchman's book. That an Englishman, late Chaplain in the diocese of Bombay, should translate and recommend it, is sufficient warrant for its catholicity. It is impossible to give a concise account of so concise a book; but three points will show its general tone as well as 300. The Abbé thinks that the French clergy do not understand the people; that they are frequently unfitted to be priests; and that they devote far too much time, and expect too much time to be devoted, to Church services. The clergy and the highest classes, even great statesmen, know nothing about the masses. There may be a man mad with rage, who insults, blasphemes, and staggers through the streets, and he is immediately taken as an average sample of the people. On the other hand, a good fellow may risk his life in some good cause, or be honest under very great temptation, and many kind-hearted gentlemen will take him for a fair type of the people; but both conclusions would be wrong, because both instances would be exceptions to a rule. Have not a few "eminent British statesmen" been making these two mistakes and fighting over them, for the last twelve months? The Abbé thinks the clergy often unfitted for their office because of the mistakes made concerning early study and future application. A man may come off brilliantly at college and think his study done for life; whilst another, a comparative dullard, may have the resolution to plod on; thus knowing, in his useful years, all that the genius has possibly forgotten or suffered to rust in indolence. "Moreover, it never seems to be borne in mind that college education merely gives us the key to knowledge and the taste for study." It seems that in Paris there are parishes where a rule is made that a sermon shall not last more than forty minutes; and our readers know something about London Sunday mornings. The Abbé Mullois leads the van of reform in the matter. "Nowadays, brevity is one of the first conditions of success and of promoting the welfare of souls. . . . The people are easily impressed; they like to be moved; but nothing passes away so quickly as an emotion. In order to bring them back to the Church (*sic*) we must have sermons of ten, seven, and even of five minutes' duration. The mass and the sermon together should not exceed half an hour. This plan has been attempted. The experiment was made, and produced the most happy and beneficial results."

The fearlessness and common-sense of this book are admirable. The Abbé wants the congregation to be talked to in a manner which they will understand, and in sentiments with which they can be persuaded to agree. Too much of the groaning and "miserable-sinner" style of composition is sure to make people seek Asnières or the Bois instead of any one of the beautiful churches and long-winded priests in all parishes. A short and pleasant discourse is necessary "in order to bring them back to the Church." That bringing them back involves a singularly honourable confession.

Brought to Light. A Story. By THOMAS SPEIGHT. 3 vols. London: Charles W. Wood.

Trusting to a good memory, even for the confusing sameness of modern fiction, we may pronounce "Brought to Light" to be Mr. Speight's first novel. Or "Story," he calls it, rather: which word may be taken in the sense in which it is usually employed by the more truth-loving youngsters in a nursery. "Oh, you story!" may well be exclaimed against a series of incidents which have become absurd through length of servitude, just as the "aged retainer" of the stage is invariably represented as ridiculous in his dotage. There is no good plea for calling the book *Miss Braddon-ish* without insulting Miss Braddon—which nobody would wish to do; nor would it be pleasant to risk a repetition of the Maxwell-American correspondence which has distinguished the columns of our contemporary the *Athenaeum*. But, without drawing a comparison, which is better avoided, it is impossible, whilst running through these pages, not to imagine the mistress-like hand of, say, Lady Maude Fitzbattlexe or some other "lady of rank" novelist, as the late Mr. Colburn's titlepages used to have it. In fact, it is the story of the wicked stepmother—once more!—getting rid of her stepson in order to favour the succession of her own flesh and blood to title and property. Now, Mr. Speight's first effort in fiction proves him to be a man plain and above board. His language was not given him to conceal his thoughts. His story is as good as told in the first fifty pages, and they must be young and naïve readers

indeed who would really take much interest in ascertaining how it all comes about and what becomes of everybody. As a matter of course, little Master John English, who is finally proved to be Sir Arthur Spencelaugh, Bart., happens after all *not* to have been aboard the good ship Ocean Child, which went down with all hands. No, he lives, and pursues an honest and handsome career of adventures in all promising parts of the world; and, coming to England as an honest and handsome photographer, gets, by very accident, to his native village and his old ancestral hall. The first person he sees is Mrs. Winch, the innkeeper, who had a principal hand in his abduction twenty years ago, and very little time elapses before he knows, as well as the reader knows, the whole of the shameful story from beginning to end. There is an immediate mutual attachment between himself and his cousin, Frederica Spencelaugh (who also picks up the strange story quickly), and, of course, bitter hatred from Henri Duplessis, a Canadian fortune-hunting blackguard, who is endeavouring to secure Frederica for himself, although he has a wife or so existing already. The reader need not demand our services as guide through the well-explored route of murders, attempted murders, madness, arson, robbery, accidental-death retribution, and shame and despair generally. The pioneers of progress have done their work in this direction most completely, and the least accomplished traveller could follow the road in safety. Mr. Speight would do well to be more reticent in his next fiction. The present is too transparent. Granted, that when the author set to work he had a cat of some kind—perhaps a splendid Persian, perhaps only an ugly smut—in his bag; granted that, it is not ridiculous to cut the string in the first chapter and pretend that pussy is a prisoner until the end of the third volume? Again, Mr. Speight might try his hand at a little novelty in character. The present set are old and tedious, because not sufficiently varied; and village gossips should be made to bear any amount of condensation. Again, these people when they must talk should talk like themselves, and not with the clearness of practised lawyers. There is an illiterate woman giving her evidence before the local justices, baronets and clergymen, and she actually, without the aid of questioning, is made to give an excellently clear statement, many pages long, and which happens to be the best piece of narrative in the book. But the magistrates could never have taken any evidence under the existing circumstances; and so, amongst other matters, Mr. Speight had better work up a little more law.

Our Schools and Colleges. By HERBERT FRY. London: Hardwicke.

Mr. Fry has already, as our readers are aware, done good service to the public by the compilation of his excellent "Guide to the London Charities," and in the work before us, he has provided another valuable aid in "Our Schools and Colleges," a subject upon which reliable information was very much wanted. Perhaps the most important social question of the day—or of any day—is that of education; and, consequently, information as to the specialties and distinctive features of the various educational institutions of the country is peculiarly welcome. Attempts to supply this information have previously been made, notably once in the pages of the now defunct *Literary Gazette*, some years ago; but, until now, the work has never, that we are aware of, been successfully accomplished. Here, however, all that was wanted is supplied by Mr. Fry, and that in the most convenient form. "Our Schools and Colleges" gives an account of the Universities, grammar schools, middle-class schools, proprietary schools, and other important educational establishments. At a glance the inquirer lights upon all needful preliminary particulars. The character of the institution, its standing, its advantages, the kind of education given, and the cost, are set forth in alphabetical order. This is, in fact, an educational directory, with plenary information appended to the name of every institution. Mr. Fry's book is sure to be welcome, and be a valuable help, in every family.

The Child's Country Book, in Words of Two Syllables. By THOMAS MILLER. With Coloured Illustrations. London: Routledge and Sons.

Books about the country for adults we have in plenty, some of the not least notable of them being from the pen of Mr. Thomas Miller; but a country book for children, written and got up generally with the pains bestowed upon the little work before us, was a novelty, and as such, as well as from its own intrinsic merits, will be especially welcome at this season, when children are being taken out of town in large numbers to enjoy health-giving air, and gather the strength for future labours in life which a "life in the country" is so well calculated to confer upon all, but especially upon the young. The letterpress is pleasingly and attractively written, and the illustrations have been engraved and printed, in their best and most agreeable style, by Messrs. Leighton Brothers, a firm now famous for this description of work.

Dozens versus Tens; or, the Ounce, the Inch, and the Penny considered as Standards of Weight, Measure, and Money, and with reference to a Duodecimal Notation. By THOMAS LEECH, F.O.S. London: Robert Hardwicke.

People who, with the present author, like to "indulge in arithmetical recreation," will find some good hard pleasure cut out for them in Mr. Leech's volume. Besides the hours of "recreation," it will probably occupy all their school-time too. Having a sterner view of life than passing it all in recreation, even arithmetical, we have limited our delights to a mere glimpse at Mr. Leech's pages, and, therefore, propose to give only his title and a line or two of explanation to our readers. Strangely enough, Mr. Leech firmly believes that the decimal system will shortly obtain with our money, weights, and measures; but yet he puts forward another system of his own contrivance, and contrived confessedly merely for the "fun of the thing." Instead of using tens, he would use twelves. "In fact, the sequences 10 and 100 should represent respectively a dozen and a gross, in which there should be a 'carriage' of dozens instead of tens." In the Navy, they say that a man who would go to sea for pleasure would go to—anywhere—for pastime; but where would he go for "arithmetical recreation"?

Monthly Volumes of Standard Novels. London: Smith, Elder and Co.

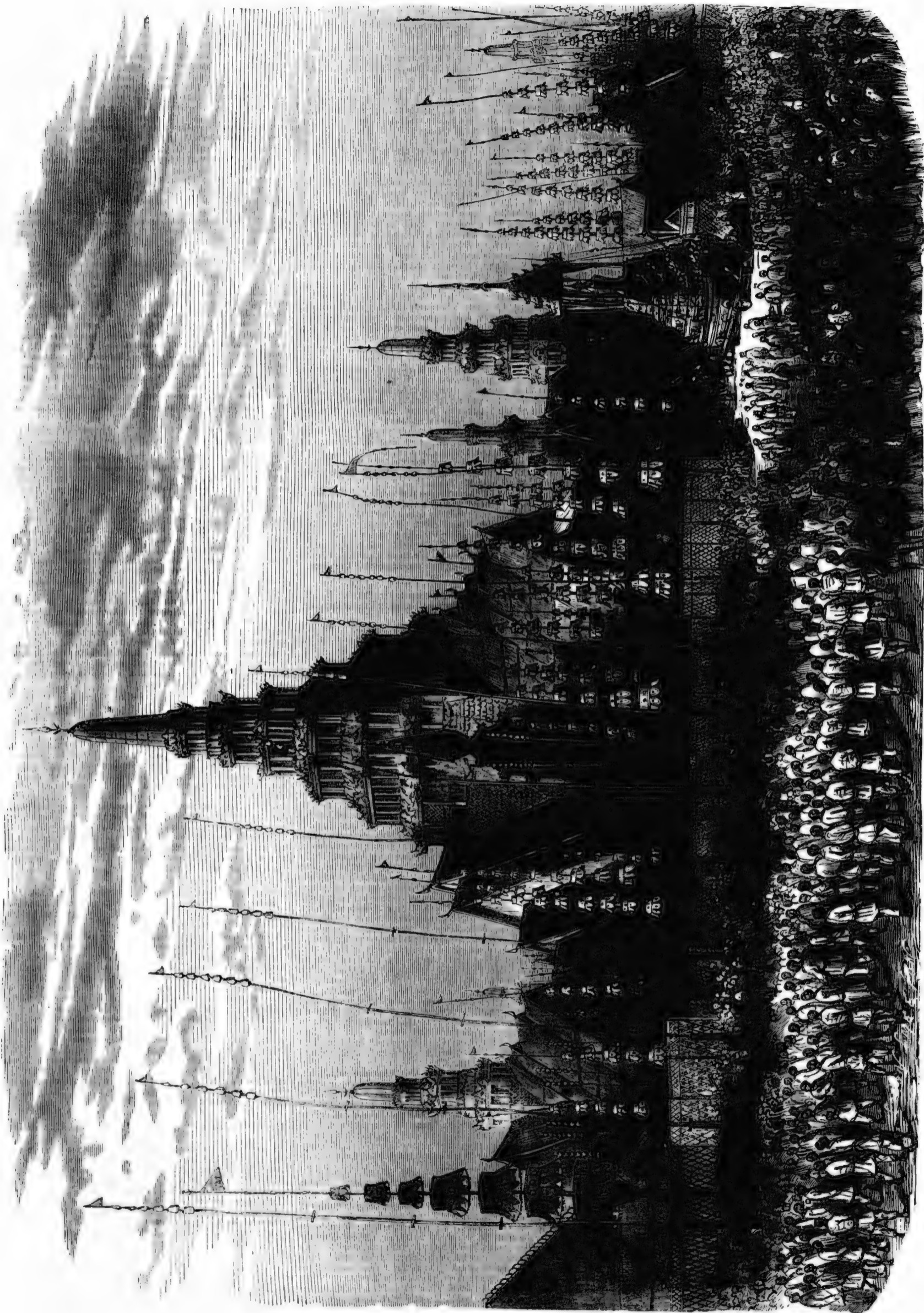
Since we last noticed their interesting series of standard novels, Messrs. Smith and Elder have published several additional volumes, all of a superior character. We may mention, among others recently issued, "The Heiress of the Blackburnfoot," by the author of "A Life's Love;" "A Bad Beginning," by K. T. Macquoid; "Over the Cliffs," by Charlotte Chanter, &c. As the season for country excursions has now set in, these shilling volumes will be found an excellent means of beguiling a railway journey or the tedium of country quarters on the chance wet days which in our climate must always be reckoned on.

Select Library of Fiction. London: Chapman and Hall.

Among late additions to this series that we have seen are "Wild Flower; or, Rights and Wrongs," by the author of "Grandmother's Money;" and "Married Beneath Him," by the author of "Lost Sir Massingberd;" "Under the Spell," by Frederick William Robinson; and these, as well as the other volumes of the series, will also be found excellent companions in country trips or wayside rambles.

The Works of Lord Lytton. London: Routledge and Sons.

To the same category as the two series of publications above mentioned belongs the cheap editions of the novels of Lord Lytton, which are now being issued by Messrs. Routledge, and they will be equally welcome—perhaps more so. Each volume costs one shilling, the latest issued being "Night and Morning," "Ernest Maltravers," and "Alice, or the Mysteries."



FUNERAL OF THE SECOND KING OF SIAM, AT BANGKOK.

FUNERAL CEREMONIES FOR THE LATE KING OF SIAM.

MORE than a year ago we gave some account of the death of the Second King of Siam, and of some of the strange ceremonies which took place on the occasion. We have now received an illustration and some account of the recent obsequies which have been conducted at Bangkok according to the Siamese custom; for a whole year has elapsed since the death of the Monarch for whose honour the preparations have been made, and it has taken all that time to prepare the mausoleum in which his remains were to be burnt. Although almost all the labouring population had been pressed into the service to complete this pyramidal structure, and the surviving King went daily to superintend the work, the edifice was only just completed on the day appointed for the solemn ceremony.

This prodigious monument has been raised in a vast open space, situated between the palaces of the First and Second Kings. It represents an immense pagoda, with a quadruple façade and a series of superposed roofs surmounted by an elegantly-decorated spire, the top of which is nearly as high as St. Paul's Cathedral, in London. Eight clocktowers, of the same style as the large spire, ornament the quadrilateral inclosure which contains the temple, and this inclosure has four gates opening opposite to the four sides of the central pavilion. The columns and the entire structure are covered with plates of silver or gilded metal, and in the interior are placed figures, composed of wood or gilded pasteboard, representing giants, angels, dragons, and all kinds of monsters and fabulous beasts. At intervals, both within and without the inclosure, are ranged gaudy banners, tall masts, and umbrella-like ornaments, with six or seven stages of canopies; while, beside arrangements for a dozen or more buildings in which to conduct the multifarious ceremonies, lodgings were provided for the princes and their suites of mandarins who were to take a prominent part on the occasion, custom requiring that they should remain there the whole eleven days and nights during which the obsequies were to be conducted. At six o'clock on the evening of the appointed day the urn containing the body of Vangua, the late King, was carried in procession from his palace on the river-side. The First King received it surrounded by his family and the principal members of the Court. His Majesty, who was dressed in a magnificent costume and wore the grand crown of Siam, placed the relic on a throne of gold, with a canopy of embroidered silk, which had been prepared in the centre of one of the Royal barges. The princes of the blood, the wives of the King and their families, and the great cortège of mandarins and Royal attendants, then took their places in fifty barges, each with its hundred rowers and brilliantly illuminated. At a signal given by his Majesty this imposing procession descended the course of the river Me-Nam to the sound of a thousand instruments of music, until it reached the grand pagoda of Vat-Cheng, on the right bank of the stream, where they were to pass the night. A number of buildings had been raised on bamboo piles or stilts driven into the banks, and amongst them were theatres, where dancing went on and dramas were performed as though some great jubilee were being celebrated, the evening's entertainments concluding with a grand display of fireworks. At two o'clock in the morning a double choir of women chanted a sort of elegy, which they continued until the dawn of day, after which the funeral urn was conveyed to the pagoda of Vat-Pho, on the left bank of the river, whence it was carried by land to the great building destined for its reception. The road thither was lined with a gilded bamboo fence, and on each side was a range of lofty masts supporting gold or silver umbrellas. Towards ten o'clock the King, accompanied by his family, took his place on a high estrade in front of his palace, before which marched the cortège, led by thousands of people bearing banners and gilded sunshades. These were followed by 300 musicians, performing the most lugubrious music that can be imagined; while behind them men in grotesque costumes dragged huge animals made of gilded and painted pasteboard—rhinoceroses, horses, elephants, lions, tigers, and a dozen pairs of nondescript birds made up this extraordinary spectacle, and each animal bore on its back a gilt shrine containing, or supposed to contain, presents for the priests. When



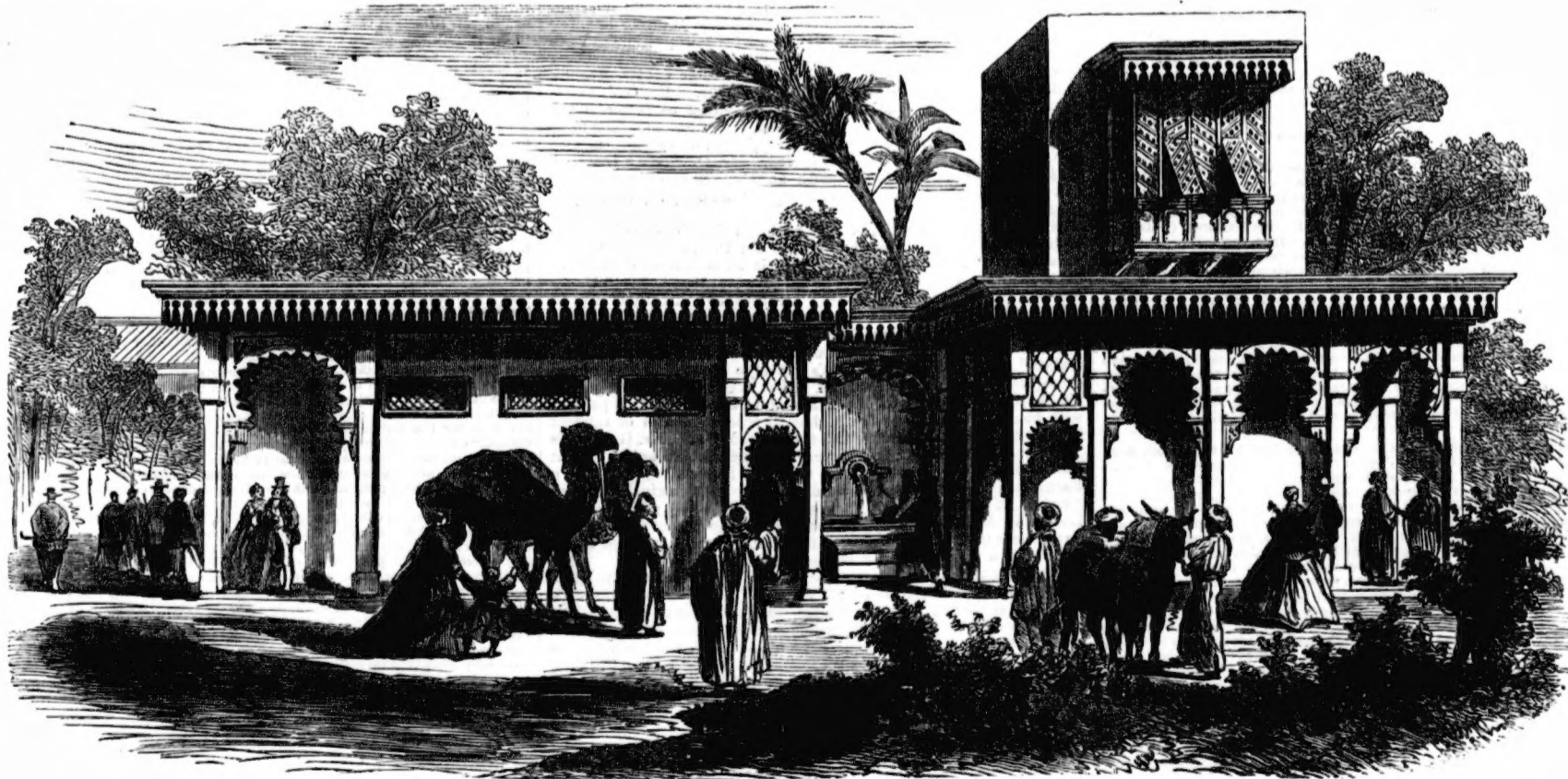
ROUMANIAN CHURCH IN THE PARK OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION.
SEE PAGE 308.

these had gone by there came, between two ranks of *theravadors* (Siamese angels) bearing in their hands branches of the sacred lotus, nine cars of an antique form, gorgeously carved and gilt, each surmounted by a pyramidal dais, and each drawn by six or eight horses and about a hundred men. On the first car was the high-priest of the pagoda, reading one of the sacred books; the two following carried the sons of the deceased King; on the fourth car was a little golden urn, containing the ashes of a younger brother of his late Majesty; the fifth, which was larger than the rest, bore an urn of massive silver ornamented with gold and jewels. This contained the remains of the King. Two mandarins in the dress of "angels" were prostrated before the urn, while a third held the reins of the vehicle, which was drawn by eight horses and 200 men, and was followed by the mandarins of the Second King, and a great crowd of his slaves, all dressed in the white robes which are the sign of Siamese mourning, and with bare and shaven heads. The last four cars contained the scented woods and bundles of perfumes to be used for

burning the body. A troop of musicians dressed in crimson followed, and behind them again came men leading the Royal horses, harnessed in white; the sons of the deceased mounted on ponies, and accompanied by a crowd of attendants; the gilded palanquins of the Princesses, with white-robed servants. The procession terminated with a number of models of ships filled with numerous toys, stuffs, silks, and gold and silver ornaments. Every evening at four o'clock during the ceremonies, the King threw among the crowd imitation lemons containing either money or tickets entitling the holder to a share in a lottery, where these articles were the prizes to be distributed. It is estimated that more than 20,000 people took part in the procession, and at four o'clock the funeral urn was placed on the pyramidal gold-bedecked altar, which had been erected in the centre of the monument amidst the four principal columns. Then commenced the rejoicings outside. There were Chinese, Siamese, and Marionette theatres; while Punch, Jack Pudding, and other attractions of a fair, translated into Siamese, had each its representative. Here was a company of acrobats, there a pair of pugilists, and further on professors of wrestling; every taste was provided for, and in the evening the monument and all the surrounding buildings were brilliantly illuminated; while the whole wound up with another pyrotechnic display. On the day of the burning of the body the golden altar was removed and replaced by a "grille," on which were arranged the woods and spices composing the funeral pyre. The urn, without its ornaments, was deposited on the pile, princes and mandarins prostrated themselves before it, and at five o'clock the King, followed by his family, went to place the lighted torch to the wood. The moment the flame was seen to flicker upwards groans and mournful cries were heard from a part of the monument which was concealed from the spectators by silk curtains. These cries proceeded from the wives of the late King, who now mourned his loss. When the King descended, the princes and mandarins each placed a piece of wood and a waxen taper to feed the flame, the ceremony continuing during the night, and the fire only being extinguished when day began to break. After the pile had cooled, the bones of the late King were deposited in a golden urn, which remained for two days in the monument, after which they were taken to the Royal palace; while the rest of the ashes of the deceased were gathered together and cast into the river a little below the Catholic Church of the Assumption.

EXTRAORDINARY ROMANCE.

THE London correspondent of the *Belfast News Letter* vouches for the truth of the following somewhat remarkable narrative:—"A short time since an old lady, living in one of the small streets leading out of Albany-street, Regent's Park, close to what was once the Coliseum, entered the shop of Mr. —, a poulterer in the neighbourhood, and purchased a chicken. The tradesmen was attentive to her, as such people ought to be, and the lady became a customer, always going to the shop and giving her own orders. She appeared to be very old, but to have all her faculties about her. On Saturday evening she went when the poulterer happened to be very busy. She said she wished to speak to him, and he asked her to walk into the little parlour behind the shop, and he would come to her the moment he was disengaged. In the parlour she met the daughter of the poulterer, and, after some conversation, in the course of which she remarked that the young girl looked ill, and required change of air, she produced a parcel, tied up in paper, and said, 'Give this to your father, as he is busy and cannot come, and I cannot wait. I wish him to take you away for a little change, and here is something that will enable him to do so.' She placed the parcel in the girl's hand, and told her to lock it up in a cupboard to which she pointed. The girl did so, and thought no more of the matter; but when, some hours subsequently, the shop was closed, and her father came into the parlour to get his supper, she produced the parcel, and gave the message by which it was accompanied. The poulterer laughed as he untied it; but, to his amazement, the parcel was found to consist of banknotes and gold to the value of £1000. There was also in it an antique gold watch and chain. The next day Mr. — hurried round to his customer to thank her, when she desired him to take his daughter out



EGYPTIAN HOUSE AND DROMEDARIES' STABLES IN THE PARIS EXHIBITION PARK.—SEE PAGE 308.

of town for a few days, and on their return to inform her of their arrival. This of course was done. A day or two after their return she called at the shop of Mr. —, and said she wished him to come to her house to tea, accompanied by his daughter. As they were about to leave, after partaking of her hospitality, she said to Mr. —, 'I wish you particularly to call upon me to-morrow morning, and bring with you two respectable persons upon whom you can rely.' The next morning Mr. — attended, accompanied by the Curate of the parish and a neighbour. The old lady then said that she was upwards of ninety years of age, and had no relative living but a cousin, an attorney, who, she alleged, had not treated her well, and by whom, she said, she had lost £20,000. She added that she had £25,000 in Consols still left; and that, as she felt she should not live long, and was resolved that the attorney should not get anything belonging to her, she had asked Mr. — to attend, with two witnesses, in order that she might transfer to him, for his own absolute use, the £25,000 to which she had referred. She added that she knew very well what she was about, and that by giving him the money while she was alive, instead of bequeathing it to him at her death, he would be saved the payment of legacy duty to the extent of £2000. This announcement appeared to be of so singular a nature that the clergyman very properly suggested that a solicitor should be sent for. The man of law came accordingly, and the transfer was duly effected. The old lady's presentiment of approaching dissolution proved to be correct, as she died a few weeks after making this singular disposition of her property. It seems that before her death she had intended to give the money to a chemist with whom she used to deal, but that he had offended her by some inattention to her wishes. The moral of this story (of the substantial accuracy of which there can be no doubt whatever) is that civility costs nothing and may sometimes yield a rich reward."

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

"THE Barber of Seville," with Mlle. Adelina Patti in the part of Rosina, was repeated at the Royal Italian Opera on Monday. The by no means humorous Signor Cotogni continues to represent—or, rather, to misrepresent—Figaro. But Mlle. Patti is the soul of the opera; and if Almaviva, Figaro, Basilio, and Bartolo were all silent, we should still go to the Royal Italian Opera the nights that "The Barber of Seville" is played for the sake of the enchanting Rosina. We must not forget, however, that Almaviva is one of Mario's happiest parts. He was indisposed the first night the opera was played this season; but Signor Mario, even with a cold, is still the best Almaviva on the stage. On Tuesday "L'Africaine" was played, with Mlle. Pauline Lucca in the part of Selika. On Thursday "Don Giovanni" was given for the first time this season, with Mlle. Patti in the part of Zerlina. "The Marriage of Figaro" is announced for to-night (Saturday), with Mlle. Lucca as Cherubino.

At Her Majesty's Theatre Mlle. Muzio, a new soprano, from whom great things were expected, was to have made her debut on Saturday last, but was prevented doing so by sudden indisposition. Since then we have heard nothing whatever about Mlle. Muzio. On Saturday, instead of "La Sonnambula," "I Lombardi" was given, when Signor Mongini, for the first time in England, assumed the character of Oronte. Signor Mongini has considerably improved, both as a vocalist and as an actor, since his first appearance in England; and, taking him all in all—voice, method, and general style—it would be difficult to name his absolute superior on the lyric stage. Signor Mongini is essentially a "robust" tenor, but he sings the well-known air in "I Lombardi," "La mia letizia," with all due feeling and expression. "I Lombardi," as we learn from a contemporary, was first produced in London in 1846, just twenty-one years ago. It is true that it was written and brought out in Italy three years before. But what are twenty-four years in the life of an opera that is really destined to live? It is now more than half a century since "The Barber of Seville" was first played—before an audience which is reported not to have appreciated it; yet who that heard it the other night, when Mlle. Adelina Patti reappeared as the heroine, can say that the music is not as fresh as our incomparable Rosina's own voice? "The Barber of Seville," like other masterpieces, and like "Don Giovanni" itself, may not be immortal; but fifty years have passed over it without ageing it in the least. The opera of "I Lombardi," on the other hand, has neither the freshness of youth nor (as we before remarked) the venerableness that should belong to old age to recommend it. It possesses neither the interest of novelty nor the interest of antiquity, and is, on the whole, uninteresting.

On Wednesday evening Miss Madeline Schiller gave a concert at St. George's Hall. Miss Schiller is one of our most graceful pianists, and plays the sentimental music of Chopin and Heller in the most charming manner. Nor are Beethoven and Mendelssohn above her; nor is Thalberg beneath her; nor, in moments of condescension, does she despise even the vapid waltzes of Signor Mattei. In short, Miss Madeline Schiller plays music of all kinds, and plays all music well. Her most successful performance on Wednesday evening was in Chopin's grand polonaise in E flat, which was enthusiastically applauded, and with one voice redemanded. Instead of repeating it, however, Miss Schiller substituted for it a composition by Heller, the name of which at this moment escapes us. The pieces executed by the interesting young pianist would, set down one after another, make a very formidable list. Miss Schiller played the pianoforte part in one of Beethoven's duets and in one of Mendelssohn's trios. She played pieces by Chopin, Heller, and Thalberg, and was heard for the sixth and (alas!) last time in one of the popular rigmaroles in triple time by Signor Mattei.

SUBWAYS IN LONDON.—Mr. Tite has laid before the House of Commons a bill giving power to the Metropolitan Board of Works to require that all new pipes to be laid under the surface of the Thames Embankment, and the streets constructed, or authorised to be constructed, by the board, with subways, shall be laid in the subway. The board may also require that pipes already laid down be removed into the subway, submitting to arbitration the question of payment of the cost of such removal. The board may demand rent for the use of the subway, subject to arbitration if the amount be disputed. This Act is intended to be adopted also in future acts for the construction of new streets.

A VOLUNTEER "DRUMMED OUT."—An unusual occurrence took place at Bristol on Saturday afternoon last—the drumming a rifleman out of the regiment for insubordination whilst under arms. The volunteer rifles marched to the Down for parade under the command of Colonel Taylor, and whilst the men were performing battalion drill Private Steffanoff (a Russian by birth), of No. 2 company, used insolent language towards his superior officer. The offence was duly reported to the commanding officer, and Steffanoff was taken prisoner on a charge of insubordination, and escorted back to the headquarters of the drill-hall. On the return of the regiment a drum-head court-martial was held in the drill-hall, under the presidency of Colonel Taylor. The officer to whom the insolence was used having given evidence against the prisoner, he admitted having used several objectionable expressions, and was then willing to make a public apology, but it would not be accepted. The decision of the court was that they were under the painful necessity of dismissing him from the regiment. He was then stripped of his accoutrements and turned outside the gates by Sergeant-Major Campion. As he was being led out by the sergeant-major the whole of the corps hissed him, and he himself seemed to feel the disgrace that had come upon him.

PAUPERISM.—The February return of the Poor-Law Board is much more satisfactory than the return for January was. The number of persons receiving relief from the poor rates in England at the end of January was 13·7 per cent more than at the corresponding period of 1866, but at the end of February the excess was only 6·7 per cent—not half so much as in the previous month. The improvement extended to every division of the kingdom. In London the increased number of paupers, as compared with the corresponding period of 1866, fell from 61,625 in January, to 32,845 in February, or from an increase of 57·3 per cent to one of 31·4 per cent. In no other division of the kingdom was the excess of pauperism over that of February, 1866, so high as 8 per cent, so that London presents quite exceptional figures in the return. London, with one seventh of the population, had more than half of the entire increase of pauperism, and the absolute number of 141,756 paupers. In the south midland and north midland divisions there was scarcely an appreciable increase over February, 1866. The total numbers receiving relief in England at the end of February, 1867, were 935,491, being 60,611 more than in February, 1866; but nearly 4 per cent should be added in both years for classes not included in these monthly returns, so that the real number of paupers in England in February last was about 1,000,000.

FINE ARTS.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY. (SECOND NOTICE.)

In the Middle Room we find Mr. Millais's principal picture, "Jephthah" (289). It will contribute little to his fame. The pose of the principal figures reminds us of "The Romans Leaving Britain;" and there is an utter absence of the Oriental character. Jephthah might belong to any nation save the Jewish; and his daughter might be a young English girl of the nineteenth century dressing for a ball. The introduction of two "niggers" does not lend local colouring. The group of damsels is pleasing; and there are, of course, charming passages of colour; but, as a whole, the work is very far from satisfactory.

Mr. Leighton's "Spanish Dancing-Girl—Cadiz in the Old Times" (405) is a picture worthy of the painter's reputation. The drawing of the figures is truly admirable, and the painting of the olive-skinned beauties is exquisite. The sultry atmosphere is wonderfully rendered, and the pose of the dancer is thoroughly suggestive of the slow, dignified measure, yet full of fire and passion, which is the true poetry of motion. Mr. Calderon's "Home after Victory" (386) tells its story well. A gallant young knight returning from battle is surrounded by his rejoicing family as he enters the courtyard of his castle. His mother grasps his hand, his fair-haired wife clings to his side, while his aged father cheerily welcomes him back, and joy is reflected in the faces of the servants standing around, and in the caper and crow of baby up in the gallery.

Mr. Hook has two pictures in this room. "Herrings from Banff" (292) represents a fishing-boat beside a pier, with her crew clearing the nets. The water, especially where it laps against the pier, is marvellously painted, and the picture is full of light and air. A boat coming into port before the wind seems to move as we look at it, in spite of its being a thought out of perspective. "A Cowherd's Mischief" (282), Mr. Hook's other picture, gives us a glimpse of the country. A broad stream spanned by a rustic bridge flows across the picture; the water is painted with consummate skill. A chubby child has been mischievously seated on the back of a cow, which stops in midstream to drink, to the distress of the little one's mother, who, from the bridge, strives to drive the animal ashore with a long wand.

In "Treason" (322) Mr. Pettie shows a decided improvement in depth and force of colour, without any loss of power. The group of conspirators is full of character, the faces abounding in expression. The wily ecclesiastic, the blunt old soldier, the discontented dyspeptic, and the wily diplomatist are all admirably portrayed. We would specially commend for careful study the head of the figure on the spectator's right—it is positively eloquent. Mr. Storey in "After You" (388) is almost equally happy in catching character. The faces of the two gallants who stand bowing each other to the open door are capital. This is one of the best things Mr. Storey has done. In the "Country Booking-Office" (265) Mr. Nicol presents to us another of those incidents of peasant life in Ireland which he so well realises. The principal figures are a family about to emigrate, around whom Mr. Nicol flings that mingled atmosphere of the quaint and touching which gives its piquancy to the Irish character as it does to his pictures. We could wish he had selected a fresh model for the old man. "The Dawn of the Reformation" (204) is in Mr. Yeames's best style. The figure of Wycliffe is dignified, and the "poor priests" are well drawn and composed. In his "St. Martin of Tours Dividing his Cloak with a Beggar" (377) Mr. Herbert succeeds better, perhaps, than in his other picture this year. He appears, however, to have overlooked the fact that his beggar is so well clothed that it would be fairer for him to share his cloak with the saint. Mr. Prinsep has not succeeded in shaking off the heavy, clayey tone which damages his colouring; but his "Miriam" (326) is a better picture than he ordinarily gives us. Mr. Horsley's "Duenna" (388) is his best contribution this year, pleasant in colour and telling in arrangement; but we cannot but think the duenna is made needlessly old and ugly. Mr. Houghton's "Boy Martyrs" (332) is a thoroughly clever picture. The row of monks presents admirable variety of character and expression; but the two children fail in some degree to give intensity, and do not tell their part of the story clearly. Mr. Fitzgerald's "Race" (353) is a charming little canvas. Mr. A. W. Cooper's "Trio" (317) is a pleasant composition, and Mr. Pott's "Defence" (404) is spirited and clever. Miss Osborn's "Morning—Bavaria" (395) is unpretending and pretty. Mr. Wyburd's telling little figure would be better for some other title than "The Last Day in the Old Room" (352), which reminds us too much of Mr. Martineau's famous picture.

"Practising for the Village Concert" (371), by Mr. Webster, is a subject that has been worn threadbare. Mr. O'Neil's "Luther" (271) is cleverly painted, but the choristers are wanting in expression. The picture, as a whole, pleases us less than the artist's last year's work. Mr. Cope's "Shylock and Jessica" (312) is far from successful. The faces are tame and the colouring is crude. It is, however, a masterpiece compared with Mr. Hart's vast and uninteresting canvas, "Barbarossa" (378), with its large heads, staring eyes, vacuity of expression, and stiffness of attitude. That so great an amount of space should be monopolised by so inferior a picture is a terrible commentary on the rules of the Academy. Mr. Dobson's "Peace be to this House" (298) is in the worst style of the sentimental school, and Mr. Redgrave's "Guardian Angel" (265) makes us tremble to think that the painter of such a picture is the principal of the national art-schools at South Kensington. Mr. Legros' "Cupid and Psyche" (264) is an echo of the Old Masters; its want of vitality and expression is not to be atoned for by the drawing and colouring.

In landscape the Middle Room can boast a fine "Stormy Evening on the Guayaquil" (363), by Mr. Mignot, whose tropical landscapes are well known for their truth and poetry. Mr. Thom contributes a clever "Evening" (251) that reminds us of some of Mr. Mason's pictures, but displays more mastery and vigour. Mr. C. J. Lewis exhibits "Gloaming" (337), which would please us better if the somewhat shadowy figures on the left had been omitted. The flock of geese is not sufficiently "brought away," and, as a result, the two figures are dwarfed out of all proportion. Mr. Dawson's "Lincoln" (384) is a powerful landscape, with an abundance of truth in it; and Mr. J. Danby paints "Carrickfergus Castle" (373) with equal effect.

Mr. Brennan is an artist who is rapidly rising into notice. His Italian views are rich in good qualities and the promise of further excellence. "A Common Scene" (268) is an admirable example of his style. Mr. Redgrave shows to better advantage in his "Under the Opening Eyelids of the Morn" (318), though his sky is raw in colour, and his tree-stems have a warmth that would seem to indicate sunset rather than dawn. But the landscape, as a whole, is pleasing. Mr. Hulme's "Autumn Time" (258), Mr. Peel's "Moel Siabod" (250), and Mr. F. Walton's "Evelyn Woods" (320) are good examples of their respective styles, which are familiar to the public. Mr. Ansell's "Calvary on the Plain of Granada" (397) is painted with his usual breadth and skill, but is scarcely so full of interest as it might be. Mr. Field's "Morning" (350) and Mr. Grahame's "Looking Seaward" (394) deserve a more lengthened notice than it lies in our power to give them; and Mr. Bayes's "Glimpse of a Farmstead" (355) merits the warmest praise as a careful rescript of nature. Mr. J. Linnell's "Harvest Showers" (333) and Mr. T. G. Linnell's "Mid-day" (396) are marked by the family peculiarities, but possess considerable charm, although the charm is not that which belongs to a vivid realisation of the truths of nature.

Mr. Holman Hunt takes a place among the painters of animals this year. "The Festival of St. Swithin" (364)—a dove-cote with the birds sheltering during a shower—is a noble bit of colour. The pigeons are lifelike, their bright plumage, with here and there touches of metallic burnish, is depicted with a master skill, and the wet landscape is full of truth. Mr. Luker's "Marauders of the Desert" (252), Mr. Corbould's "Stots" (270), Mr. Carter's "Stampede" (330), and Mr. D. Cooper's "Locked Up" (301), are all good. Mr. Sidney Cooper's donkeys "Waiting for Hire" (410) is better than usual. Mr. Burke's "Ploughing" (306) possesses merit.

Of the portraits, that of "Miss Pettie" (249) by Mr. Orchardson, must claim the first mention. It is unaffected and pleasing—everything that a portrait, in the best sense of the word, should be. Mr. Hughes, for all his bright colour, and though he groups his subjects in "A Picnic" (418), cannot divest his work of the portrait element and make a picture of it, as Mr. Orchardson has done. Mr. Wells's "Helen" (288) is pleasing. His "Rifle Ranges, Wimbledon" (315), may also be classed among the portraits. Mr. Baccani's "Mrs. Legh" (411) and Mr. Winterhalter's "Mrs. Vanderbilt" (257) are the most noticeable of those works that pretend to nothing further than likeness. In this room Miss Matrie has some good fruit and flower studies, the best of them perhaps being "Margaret's Corner" (346).

THE HOMELESS BOYS OF LONDON.—Great preparations are in progress for a large gathering of Sunday-school children to sing in the Handel orchestra of the Crystal Palace, on some day of August next, on behalf of the Homeless Boys of London and the Albert Orphan Asylum. The children who will take part in the concert will be selected from all the principal Sunday-schools in the metropolis, who with their teachers will number about 6000 singers; as so large a number of Sunday-schools, with the congregations to which they belong, will be interested in this movement, it is anticipated that the attendance at the Crystal Palace will be one of the largest of the season. The programme will be selected by a committee of gentlemen, on whose judgment every reliance can be placed, and only that kind of music will be sung which can be introduced with propriety on such an occasion.

CIVIL LIST PENSIONS.—The following pensions on the Civil List, which exhaust the amount available for the current year, have been recently granted:—£100 a year to Mrs. Chisholm, in consideration of the valuable and disinterested services rendered by her to emigrants in New South Wales; £100 a year to the family of the late Dr. Petrie, being pensions at the rate of £25 a year each to his four daughters, in consideration of the eminent services rendered by him to archaeological science, both as an author and as a public servant; £100 a year to Lady Harris, widow of Sir William Snow Harris, in consideration of her husband's valuable invention of the system of lightning conductors; £100 a year to the Rev. Miles Joseph Berkeley, on account of his eminent services as a botanist to practical horticulture and agriculture; and £95 a year to Mr. George Cruikshank, on account of his great merit as an artist.

LOSS OF A STEAM-SHIP.—The fine steam-ship Prince Consort, trading between Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and the north of Scotland, struck on the rocks two miles south of Aberdeen during the thick fog of Saturday morning last. The sea was running high at the time, and all efforts to get the vessel off proved fruitless. Fortunately, the disaster was seen by the fishermen of a coast village half a mile distant, and without loss of time boats were manned and dispatched to the wreck. About one hundred passengers were on board, many of them in bed; but, warned of some danger by the crash, they hastened on deck unclothed; and, through the energy of Captain Parrott and his crew and the arrival of the fishermen, everyone was got safely to land. Not a particle of anything in the shape of luggage was brought on shore, and in the course of an hour or so a little remained together of the steamer but the portion amidst the machinery. The Prince Consort belonged to the Edinburgh, Leith, and Clyde Shipping Company. Captain Parrott, her commander, is an experienced seaman, and was the last to leave his ship.

ARBITRATION VERSUS STRIKES.—During the past week the manufacturers of hosiery in the town and county of Leicester have resolved upon following the example of the hosiers of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and have arranged with the working men for the establishment of a board of arbitration for that district. In the lace trade of Nottingham and Notts, which has suffered so frightfully, and which has been partially driven from the country by long-continued struggles between master and workmen, the operatives, attracted by the excellent working of the hosiery board, are contemplating the formation of a similar board for all the branches of their own trade. Mr. Mundella, the President of the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce, and the originator of the scheme of arbitration in Nottingham, has had protracted interviews with the council of the Lacemakers' Society on the subject, and they have decided to invite their employers to form a board. Should this effort prove successful, the staple trades of three counties (Notte, Derby, and Leicester) will be free from the ruinous effects of strikes, the men at the same time preserving their unions intact.

THE GREAT EASTERN SEIZED UNDER AN ADMIRALTY ORDER.—Captain Sir James Anderson, of the Great Eastern, appeared before the Liverpool magistrates, on Monday, as the defendant in two summonses—one taken out by the pursor, and another by a seaman, on board the Great Eastern during her last voyage, for the recovery of wages due to them in those capacities. Both claims were allowed by the Court. Mr. Gully, barrister, who appeared for the Captain, said that many conflicting interests were involved, and the claims had been resisted up to this point in order that they might be brought into court and strictly proved. Sir James Anderson had no other desire than that every seaman and officer who had served on board the ship should have his due. On Friday week affidavits were sent up to the Court of Admiralty, by Mr. J. W. Carr, a Liverpool solicitor, in support of the claims of about 300 seamen to a sum amounting altogether to £4500. Citation was issued on Saturday morning, and on Monday the Great Eastern was seized, the receiver of wrecks at Liverpool acting on behalf of the Marshal of the Court of Admiralty. Three other suits were also being instituted, one for £800 for stores, &c. It is understood that the owners of the ship decline to pay the wages until some competent tribunal has decided to what amount the men are actually entitled, and in order that they (the owners) may be in a position to take proceedings against the French company who chartered the vessel.

M. GUIZOT'S "MEMOIRS."—The eighth and last volume of M. Guizot's "Mémoires" has just appeared. The author relates in it that he might have become a Spanish grandee; and that, if he had so willed, he might have been created a Duke in his own country. The passage runs thus:—"In 1846 the Queen of Spain, at the moment of her own marriage and of that of her sister, did me the honour to express a wish to confer on me the honour of hereditary grandee of the kingdom, with the title of Duke. I spoke to King Louis Philippe on the subject, expressing to him my intention to decline the favour, with my reasons for so doing. 'You are quite right,' said his Majesty; and immediately added, smiling, 'Shall I make you a Duke in France?' 'That would please me better, sire,' said I; 'but I do not think that such a nomination would be advantageous either to the service of the King or to myself.' 'You are right again,' rejoined the King, and no more was said on the matter. I wrote immediately to Count Bresson stating that I was neither a Partisan nor a Democrat; that I had no more contempt for titles than for all the other external marks of greatness; that I felt neither scorn nor appetite for them. I only valued and coveted two things—political force during my life, and the honour of my name after death. If I thought that a grandeeship or a dukedom would add anything to my present strength or to my reputation hereafter, I should accept them with pleasure. But I believed the contrary. As, however, I would not like to appear to entertain an impertinent disdain for the honour intended, and as I should be delighted to preserve for myself and my family some reminiscence of the great event in which we had both taken part, I should receive with real pleasure the portraits of the Queen and of the Infanta. And if there was a desire to confer on me some special favour—to add some memorial of a truly Spanish character, such as an old picture or an antique piece of furniture—I should be particularly grateful. Such were my whole thoughts on the subject, and he could act as he thought fit. The Count understood me perfectly, and got my refusal accepted at Madrid. The two Royal portraits and a charming little picture by Murillo are the only presents that I obtained for the Spanish marriages."

THE USE OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE BY PUBLIC OFFICERS.—The following is a copy of a Treasury minute, dated the 2nd inst., cautioning public officers from having recourse to political influence in order to obtain increase of salary or allowances:—"My Lords have observed with much regret a growing practice on the part of gentlemen employed in the public service to endeavour to influence this board to accede to their applications for increase of salary or additional retiring allowance by means of the private solicitation of members of Parliament and other persons of political influence. It is the duty, as well as the wish, of their Lordships to give the most careful consideration to every representation made to them in the recognised way on behalf of any public servant (whatever be his social status or his official rank), with regard to his position, salary, and prospects of promotion, and also with regard to the amount of his retiring allowance on his quitting the public services. It is the practice of their Lordships to consider questions of salary with reference to the duties and responsibilities of the individual or class whose case is brought before them, and to decide upon them after communication with the heads of the department concerned. In fixing the amount of retiring allowance in those cases where the Legislature has left them a discretion, my Lords are in the habit of proceeding upon certain principles which they have prescribed for themselves, and within the limit of these principles they endeavour to deal with each case impartially upon its merits. It appears to their Lordships that any attempt on the part of an officer to approach them on these matters, through the private intercession of persons unconnected with his department, is virtually imputing to this board either that it is likely to turn a deaf ear to a reasonable application, unless supported by political influence, or that it may be induced to accede to an unreasonable application if such influence be brought to bear upon it. My Lords disclaim either alternative; and, in order to prevent for the future any misapprehension upon this subject, they wish it to be understood by every public officer that any attempt made by him to obtain the sanction of this board to his application by any such solicitation as is hereinbefore referred to will be treated by them as an admission on the part of such officer that his case is not good upon its merits, and such application will be dealt with by their Lordships accordingly. Let a copy of this minute be sent to every public department."

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